# Chickasaw Times

*Official publication of the Chickasaw Nation*

Vol. XXXXIIII No. 1 | January 2009 | Ada, Oklahoma


## Health System recognized as 25-year American Hospital Association member

Mike McKee

**Gov. Bill Anoatubby, left, and Chickasaw Nation Health System Administrator Bill Lance, center, receive a commemorative plaque signifying 25 years of American Hospital Association membership from AHA regional executive David E. Morton.**

On Friday, December 5, 2008, the Chickasaw Nation Health System was honored with a plaque from the American Hospital Association (AHA) commemorating 25 years of membership.

The AHA's advocacy activities focus on federal relations and national health policy development.

AHA is a national organization that represents and serves hospitals, health care networks, their patients and communities. Approximately 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care and 37,000 individual members come together to form the AHA.

*Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.*


*The Chickasaw Times*
Post Office Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821


## *Chickasaw students do well at regional robotics tournament*

**Blockhead team members received medals for participating in the LEGO League Tri-State Regional tournament in Canyon, Texas, December 6. Back row, from left are Jason Folsom, Josh Tingle, Thirkiel Wedlow, Jordan Stick-Greenwood and Mikayla Hook. Front row from left are Patrick Cooke, Brendan Anoatubby, Savannah Weems and Bailee McCurdy.**

**Mechanical Mastermind team members received medals for participating in the LEGO League Tri-State Regional tournament in Canyon, Texas, December 6. Back row from left are Macy Tiger, Autumn Underwood, Taylor Weems and Chelsea Wedlow. Front row from left are Krysten Wallace, Brooke Colungo and Lauren Burden.**

CANYON, Texas - A total of 48 teams from Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas gathered on the West Texas A&M University campus here to display problem-solving and creative thinking skills during the LEGO League regional tournament.

Two Chickasaw Nation teams traveled to Canyon for the Tri-State Regional tournament December 6 and displayed hard work, teamwork and sportsmanship abilities during the competition.

"I am very proud of all the hard work and dedication our teams put into the LEGO League program," said Gov. Bill Anoatubby. "It was a great accomplishment to advance to the regional tournament during the program's first year."

During the tournament, the Blockheads and the Mechanical Masterminds performed project and teamwork presentations and competed in robot performance. The students competed against several teams using creative thinking and technical skills. While using computer programming to maneuver robots

*See **LEGO League,** page 23*

## *Christmas is for kids!*

Marcy Gray

**Brody McElhannon, of Ada, is ready for Christmas at the Ada Children's Christmas Celebration. The celebration was Dec. 8 at the Chickasaw Community Center.** *See **Article and photos,** page 23*

**CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE**
**REGULAR SESSION**
**David Stout Building**
**Ada, Oklahoma**
**November 21, 2008**

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Linda Briggs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #3 ROLL CALL

**Members present:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus (Late arrival; 9:06 a.m.), Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**Members absent:** Scott Colbert, Wanda Blackwood Scott

**Staff present:** Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

**Guests present:** Wilma Pauline Stout Watson, Michael T. Watson, Traile G. Glory, Adam Fillmore, Michael L. Wingo, Kathryn McMahon, Sean McMahon

**AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES -** September 19, 2008 (Tabled 10/17/08); October 17, 2008

A motion was made by Dr. Goforth Parker and seconded by Ms. Easterling to approve the September 19, 2008 minutes.

**Members voting yes:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**10 yes votes**

The motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2008 carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Ms. Easterling to approve the minutes of October 17, 2008.

**Members voting yes:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**10 yes votes**

The motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2008 carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**(A) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Steve Woods

No report.

**(B) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Holly Easterling

No report.

**(C) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Dean McManus

The Human Resources Committee report was given by Ms. Green.

**General Resolution Number 26-004, Gubernatorial Reappointment to the Board of Directors of RSE Enterprises, Inc., John Elliott**

This resolution confirms Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. John Elliott to the Board of Directors of RSE Enterprises, Inc. Mr. Elliott's term of office for this appointment will end on October 1, 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Ms. Barker to approve GR26-004.

**Members voting yes:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**10 yes votes**

**The motion to approve GR26-004 carried unanimously.**

Ms. Green concluded her report.

**(D) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Judy Goforth Parker

**General Resolution Number 26-005, A Resolution Affirming General Resolution 21-051 and Correcting Description of Real Property in Garvin County**

This Resolution re-affirms General Resolution 21-051 for the purpose of specifically identifying the complete legal description.

A motion was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Woods to approve GR26-005.

**Members voting yes:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**10 yes votes**

**The motion to approve GR26-005 carried unanimously.**

**General Resolution Number 26-006, Authorization for Granting of Real Property in Pontotoc County**

This resolution authorizes the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, or his designee, to conclude the deeding of property, free and clear, from the Chickasaw Nation to the Housing Authority of the Chickasaw Nation for use in the NAHASDA Housing Program. The property was originally acquired by the Chickasaw Construction Company and deeded to the Chickasaw Nation. The property is in a residential section, therefore, this resolution authorizes the tribe to transfer it to the Housing Authority which can better use the property. The site is to be utilized as a building site for the NAHASDA Program.

A motion was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Ms. Easterling to approve GR26-006.

**Members voting yes:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**10 yes votes**

**The motion to approve GR26-006 carried unanimously.**

The record reflects that Ms. McManus was present for the remainder of the meeting.

General Resolution Number 26-007, Authorization for Acceptance of Real Property in Pontotoc County

This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to accept real property in Ada, Pontotoc County Oklahoma, containing 1.566 acres, more or less. The property's intended use is for a Firehouse for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A motion was made by Dr. Goforth Parker and seconded by Ms. Easterling to approve GR26-007.

**Members voting yes:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**11 yes votes**

**The motion to approve GR26-007 carried unanimously.**

**General Resolution Number 26-008, Authorization for Geophysical Permit in Marshall County**

This Resolution approves Geophysical Permit number G03-02-2007 in favor of Chesapeake Energy, Inc., Madill, Oklahoma, for a geophysical permit across one property owned by the Chickasaw Nation for an access fee of $10.00 per acre for a total of $11,740.00, for a term of six months beginning with the date of approval.

A motion was made by Dr. Goforth Parker and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to

*See* ***Minutes,*** *page 30*

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*Governor*

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*Lt. Governor*

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the *Chickasaw Times*. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.

***Deadline for submission is the 22nd of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.***

# *Families, children form the foundation of great nations*

**By BILL ANOATUBBY**
**Governor**
**Chickasaw Nation**

When we consider the essential building blocks of a nation, the bedrock of any sovereign entity would be its families and its children. How a nation nurtures its children, and how it supports its families, will always be indicative of how strong that nation is.

At the Chickasaw Nation, we have understood for countless generations the importance of strong families and healthy, happy children. In the era long before removal, Chickasaws built strong communities with support structures for families. If a family encountered trouble, related families would move quickly to its aid. Throughout the entire community, it was understood that support was always available and children would always be cared for.

In the modern Chickasaw Nation, that legacy of caring, support and strength has continued through our traditional family structures, as well as our tribal programs. The challenges may have changed, but the commitment to children and families has remained constant.

Through the tribal Division of Youth and Family Services, families can access multiple services, all designed to keep them together and strong. Our Chickasaw families benefit from marriage counseling, relationship building, family development, special gatherings and much more. The intent of all these programs, and many more, is to help our families when they encounter life's knocks and bumps. Our desire is to assist our families to overcome these challenges, and help them with those fundamental elements that are so important to a successful family unit.

**Gov. BILL ANOATUBBY**

Our Department of Family Advocacy is making tremendous inroads ensuring children without good homes have the benefit of a good foster home environment. In this modern era, quality foster care for our children is a challenge that must be met. We understand the commitment our foster families make to our children, and we are supportive of those foster environments that help shape our children well for adulthood.

Through the Chickasaw Nation Health System, families access health care that is among the finest in the country. When the tribe compacted in 1994 to provide Indian health care in this area of Oklahoma, we understood that quality health care was the top priority of Chickasaw people. We wanted to be certain that care was developed properly and delivered professionally.

Since the compact, we have continued to grow and expand our health care services. We annually dedicate millions of dollars in tribal funds for Chickasaw-specific health care programs. We are building a new, state-of-the-art health care facility in Ada that will be as modern, as well-staffed and as well-equipped as any in the country. We know healthy families have the greatest opportunity for success, happiness and longevity.

Through the tribal Division of Education, our students are incentivized to achieve at the highest levels of academia. With scholarships, books and clothing grants, tuition assistance, laptop computers, license and certification aid, and more, our young Chickasaw students now have the best opportunity of all time to succeed. And they are succeeding! We now see graduation records year after year, and an explosion of Chickasaws receiving their bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Our students really are, our "leaders of tomorrow."

We are always mindful of our mission to enhance the quality of the lives of Chickasaw people. Everything a nation builds stems from the success of its family and its children. Serving them properly and fully assures our future as a strong and self-reliant people.

# Lighthorseman gains appreciation of freedom after deployments

**GARY DODD**

Ada native Gary Dodd has twice served his country and now continues to serve the public in his position at the Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department.

A 10-year member of the U.S. Army National Guard, Dodd has been deployed on peacekeeping missions twice, once to Egypt and once to Afghanistan.

Today, he remains a National Guardsman, and says his time overseas gave him a better appreciation of the privileges and freedoms Americans enjoy.

Dodd began his career in law enforcement the same year he joined the National Guard. He started as a dispatcher and reserve officer at the Pauls Valley (OK) Police Department, where he served three years.

After a one-year deployment to Egypt in 2002-03, he accepted a position with Lindsey (OK) Police Department as a patrol officer.

Eventually, he was promoted to Lieutenant Patrol Supervisor at the Lindsey Police Department, where he worked until a 2006 deployment to Afghanistan.

When Dodd returned home in 2007, he traded in his Army fatigues for a Lighthorse Police uniform.

Recently, he was promoted from patrol officer to a special agent in the LHP narcotics division. He focuses his efforts on the southern region of the Chickasaw Nation.

He is anticipating the completion of a southern substation, near Thackerville, Okla., which will house Lighthorse Police, fire crews and EMS.

"It will greatly enhance the coverage of the southern section of the Chickasaw Nation," he said.

At any given moment, he said, Lighthorse officers can be called upon to assist with local, state and federal authorities due to the 7,648 square miles covered by the tribe, he said. This gives Lighthorse officers a presence in many places besides Ada, home of Chickasaw Nation headquarters.

"It's easy for people in the Ada area to see us and know we are here," he said, "but there are officers out on the road in the far northern and southern part of the Chickasaw Nation that people don't get to see."

Dodd, a Choctaw, said he enjoyed his new position.

"It allows me to interact with new people every day, and gives me a chance to give back to the community and serve justice when it's needed," he said.

During his eight-year tenure in law enforcement, Dodd has received extensive training including Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) basic investigations academy and NARC assault, among others. Due to his military experience, he recently was named as the Lighthorse Police SWAT team leader.

Dodd resides in Ada. When he is off duty he enjoys outdoor activities, including hunting and fishing.

For more information about the Lighthorse Police Department, log on to www.chickasaw.net.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*

## Harvard program offers tuition waivers to low-income students

Harvard University has recently announced that qualifying undergraduate students from low-income families will be eligible for tuition waivers.

Undergraduate students are eligible if family household income is less than $60,000 a year. Students will pay no tuition or student loans.

For more information, visit Harvard's financial aid website at www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/ <http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/> or call (617) 495-1581.

*Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.*

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# *Holiday time is busy time as tribe moves ahead*

**Linda Briggs**
**Chickasaw Tribal Legislature**

Hello, Everyone!

It really is Christmas – Ready or not! And once the children in your life are taken care of, or their dreams and wishes are going to be met to the best of your ability, then the best of Christmas is being with and appreciating the love and friendship of family and friends.

Today was a very special day for me. A dear friends who stays so busy she has become the ultimate "multi-tasker" of all time (I am sure!) made good on a promise to come see me. With her came her very gifted, very musical son and it gave me the pleasure of being with both of them. My husband was a very gifted musician who loved and played jazz (Remember Stan Kenton and Woody Herman?) and classical music. Beethoven was his favorite – the 9th Symphony. As a result of music being the breath of my husband's life he had many recordings of different forms of media and Wyas (my friend's son and whose composition was recently played at the Kennedy Center) got to go through and enjoy seeing a collection of an era gone by. He enjoyed it, we enjoyed it and what a great day it was. One of those days to be remembered and relished. – A Christmasy kind of day!

On the Legislature we continue to be busy, even double so with the holidays here and work necessarily not wanting to "wait." Committees are meeting and action is happening. The Election Committee is convening to review and make any changes they may consider necessary to continue to improve our procedures for that process. Every election seems to present another area that could use some manner of change or improvement.

An adhoc committee on policies and procedures of the Legislature has started its work. We have to constantly review and improve on our own actions as well as those of others along with taking a look at activities presented to us by the Administrative Branch of our government. On a regular basis we are presented with updates and happenings of the different divisions by the heads of those divisions. Sometimes I wonder how they manage to be all the places they are needed. Our Tribe is growing in every way one could imagine and all of us will benefit from the extraordinary energy being expended on our behalf. Our great and wonderful growth and progress did not "just happen." A great leader with a vision put a lot of ideas in motion by surrounding himself with people who could make those ideas realities. Great gifts to all of us!

May your holidays be filled with the warmth and love of friends and family – those are the greatest gifts of all. God's blessings to each and every one of you.

Linda Briggs

# Voice of experience gives good advice: serve others

**Dr. Judy Goforth Parker**
**Chickasaw Tribal Legislature**

2009. It is a new year, and time for new goals and plans. I will share with you some thoughts that I have had based on words spoken by a native of our own Marietta, Oklahoma. As is my practice for the past 25 years, I attend the graduations at East Central University. In 2008, we had our second winter graduation, and I was surprised to learn that the speaker was from Marietta. Our speakers are graduates of East Central University and they are honored by the distinction of outstanding alumnus.

Lt General James D. Thurman serves in the United States Army. It is amazing to think that one of our fellow Oklahomans is working in the Pentagon and supervises up to 1 million in the United States Army. Lt. General Thurman left us with some words of encouragement that I would like to share with you. He said that when he left East Central University in 1975 he began his career in the Army. That career has carried him around the world including two tours of duty in Iraq. Lt. Gen. Thurman shared with us his passion for serving in the army and said that whatever you do as your life work, you should be passionate about it. I thought about what he was saying and realized that the words of wisdom are voiced by many. The sage advice to be passionate about your life work is an example of what results in a job being well done. Regardless of your age and station in life, be passionate about what you do.

He also encouraged a positive attitude. My mother is the positive attitude person in my life. She is such an example, and I too want to live that way. We could change the world with positive attitudes.

Lt. Gen. Thurman ended his speech with this final word of advice: serve people. Obviously, his years of service to the United States are an example of serving, but we do not all have such a grand opportunity. We do have the opportunity to serve every day, whether it be to ten people or just one. My father used to work at a volunteer in the Chickasaw Nation Health System volunteer booth. When we lost him, my mother took over his position, and she continues to serve Chickasaw people for my father and for the Chickasaw Nation. Serving others is a choice.

Lt. Gen. Thurman said that we would probably not remember what the commencement speaker said for the ECU graduating class of 2008, but I think that he was wrong. I hope that you will consider his words of wisdom and make a difference this year.

God bless you and your family as you face the challenges and joys of 2009.

Judy Goforth Parker, PhD, RN
Chickasaw Legislator
Pontotoc District, Seat 2

# *New Year provides time to reflect on our tribe*

**Wanda Blackwood Tippit Scott**
**Chickasaw Tribal Legislature**

The enjoyment of family during the Christmas holiday season, and the freshness of the new year that follows, are great reminders of the importance of family.

Each of us appreciates our immediate family, our spouses, children, siblings, grandchildren and others. We count on our family members in times of both joy and sorrow.

We also count on our tribal family. Each of us has a large, extended family that is the Chickasaw Nation. For generations, we have helped each other, looked out for each other and provided support when it is needed.

This is part of the history of the Chickasaw Nation. For generations prior to our removal to Indian Territory, we lived in highly organized communities where the support of fellow Chickasaws was truly a life or death matter.

Once in Indian Territory, we had to start again. Once more, we counted on each other to survive and eventually flourish in the new land.

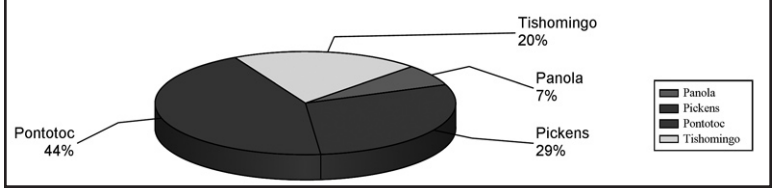
It took a lot of "doing," but we stuck together and produced a wonderful new home.

We are now in a wonderful, prosperous era of our tribal history. It is important to remember that while we have gained much, it is all due to the interlocking ties of our tribal family that have sustained us.

Happy New Year and many blessings to your family!

## Count of Voters by District

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tishomingo | 4,688 | Pontotoc | 10,143 |
| Pickens | 6,754 | Panola | 1,539 |
| | | Total | 23,124 |



# Hospital work progressing well; clinics busy in December

**Mary Jo Green**
**Chickasaw Tribal Legislature**

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! Even though it is our favorite time of year, we are glad the hustle and bustle of the holidays is behind us and we are facing the new calendar year with excitement and enthusiasm. We have much to be thankful for and we will not let the cold weather of winter dampen our spirits! We also hope that old man Winter does not hinder the builders working on our new hospital!

Health System Administrator Bill Lance reported to the Committee that the pouring of concrete to create the floors in the new hospital is nearing completion. The first floor is done and the second is nearing completion while the third floor is beginning to take shape. We continue to hope that the building will be ready for inspection by the Indian Health Service in January, 2010. Then we can install equipment and open the doors for business in approximately March, 2010. There will be a great celebration when that occurs!

We welcome Dr. Syed, psychiatrist, and a new Physicians' Assistant to the Ardmore Clinic. We are sad to report that Dr. Molina is leaving the staff of the Family Practice Clinic; however we welcome his temporary replacement, Dr. Brent Denley. We continue to search for three dentists to fill vacancies at Carl Albert and the Tishomingo Clinic.

Bill Lance reported the following statistics: for the month of November, 2008, there were 229 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 18,185. November Emergency Room visits were 976. November saw 227 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,730 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,700 patients in November. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,567 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,678. The Durant Clinic saw 2,283 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,026 in November. These numbers are down from last month. However, Mr. Lance reported that flu season is in full bloom and the clinics are overflowing in December.

I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of *the Chickasaw Times* and on the Chickasaw Nation web site.

My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.

# *Economic turmoil widespread, but tribe remains on solid financial footing*

**Holly Easterling**
**Chickasaw Tribal Legislature**

Happy New Year to you and your family! And in my opinion, a welcome goodbye to a tumultuous 2008! We have all probably felt the effects of the economic crisis whether it be in shrinking investments and retirement plans, foreclosures or declining property values, lost jobs, increased expenses of living, etc. Americans have sent their message to Washington that they are ready for change. While we all hope, watch, wait and many become involved in the process of recovery, isn't it good to know your tribe is financially solvent and looking forward to the new year with great promise and vision?

Anyone with a 401(k) or investments in the stock market has seen the volatility that can occur. There has been almost constant news coverage related to the mortgage backed securities that were a result of some creative investment instruments. During these times, it is important that citizens understand that the Chickasaw Nation has a conservative investment strategy that serves us well regardless of the ups and downs of the stock market. As a result, we have no investments in the mortgage backed securities that have been at the center of the financial crisis. All bank accounts and certificates of deposit are collateralized, or fully protected, by federal deposit insurance, government bonds or letters of credit. Jenny Trett, Chief Financial Administrator of the Chickasaw Nation, reports that "Our funds are invested in order to earn interest income but they are invested in United States Treasury bonds and bonds of other government sponsored entities, all of which are AAA rated. This is the highest rating an investment can receive and designates it as the most secure." As a result of the conservative strategies already in place, the financial assets of the Chickasaw Nation are securely invested and safe for the future.

And on another positive front, revenue projections for 2008/2009 from the Division of Commerce are right on target. Our fiscal year began in October and the first two months of our first quarter show performance ahead of projections from our tribal businesses. December is typically a slower month but, as of the date of this writing, we should finish out the first quarter meeting all projections. Brian Campbell, Administrator of the Division of Commerce, states that "While we are cautiously optimistic about the new year, we have a plan in case of a down turn in revenues. We are constantly monitoring our economic conditions and are poised to make adjustments in operations when necessary."

So amid the current economic crisis and recession, feel confident in the investment and business operation strategies of the Chickasaw Nation. The most current Statement of Tribal Operations can be found in this month's edition of *the Chickasaw Times*.

Again, Happy New Year to all of you and a special thank you to our veterans, servicemen and women around the world and best wishes to our beloved Chickasaw elders.

Pontotoc District Legislator
Holly Easterling, CPA
Finance Committee Chair

# School-to-Work program a real 'hand up'

**Katie Case**
**Chickasaw Tribal Legislature**

Hello Everyone,

As we kick off the new year and make resolutions to better ourselves, our situations and our futures, we should remember that we are Chickasaw. Being Chickasaw means that we are part of something greater than ourselves. We are part of the Chickasaw Nation in which our participation pays dividends in the form of programs and services designed to help us help ourselves.

One of the most noteworthy programs is the Chickasaw Nation School-to-Work program. The vision of the School-to-Work program is to help create a nation of educated and highly trained professionals who can meet the demands of today's workforce. The program exists to further enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people by providing an opportunity to empower our citizens through educational training and superior on-the-job experience.

What this means is that students who are willing to pursue a technical degree or a degree of higher education can receive on-the-job training at one of the many Chickasaw Nation departments or businesses. Students' work hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During those hours the students work and attend classes. Class time counts as work time and time worked benefits the Chickasaw Nation.

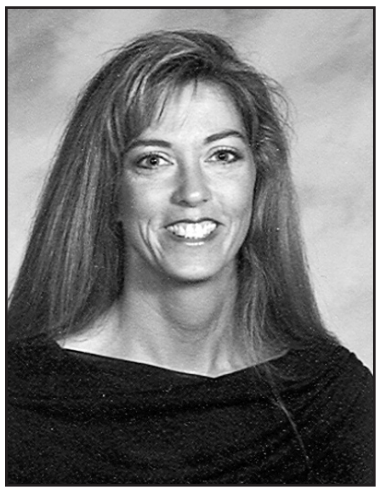
This is a wonderful program that truly allows Chickasaws to afford to pursue education and training. It is, however, truly a hand up rather than a hand out. Students are held accountable for regular and timely attendance to classes and are given educational counseling and career tracking by qualified professionals along the way.

The program is currently operating in Ada and Ardmore. Interested Chickasaws must apply through the Human Resources Department. The Chickasaw nation HR department can be reached by calling (580) 436-2603. Specific questions about the program can be directed to Danny Wall, Director of the School to Work Program at (580) 559-0815.

I wish each of you and your families the best in the upcoming new year!

Respectfully,
Katie

# New year offers lots of possibilities and opportunities to meet people and go places



**Beth Alexander**
**Chickasaw Tribal Legislature**

There will never be another year like this past one. Many of us experienced personal losses, others accomplished life goals, and some even witnessed new life. We are making history together- you and I. It's been said that a picture paints a thousand words. So without further ado let me share some fun and memory making moments of the final month of 2008.

The Purcell Chickasaw Community Council always has wonderful entertainment at their annual Christmas Dinner and auction. The Shackleford Sisters provided this year's music. What harmony! The auction is held as a fund raiser for the council. Yes, I did contribute and ended up with eagle feather place mats and a hand made finger weave belt. I can't wait for next year.

Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community council whipped together a Christmas meal at their Dec. meeting. This was the first official meeting under the direction of their new chair, Mr. Todd Griffith. Thank you to out going chair, Mr. Tom Hogland, for his dedication and leadership to the council. The January meeting will be held on Thursday, the 15th. Bring a covered dish and join the group at 6:00pm to eat and the meeting will be held at 7:00pm.

**From left, Amanda, Katy, Skye and Brooke Shackleford.**

The Chickasaw Martial Arts Program for the Panola District meets at the Achille Senior Center every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30 – 8:00PM. There is not an age limit and all citizens are invited to participate. This could be the answer to your New Year's exercise resolution! For more information on the Martial Arts program, call Mr. Ervin Gust at (580) 931-9819.

Enos Chickasaw Community Council did not have a regular meeting in December; instead they held a community Christmas Party. And I do mean Community! There must have been over 250 children, parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors! Santa Claus was on location to hand out a present to each child that attended. He called each one by name, to come and receive their gift. You should have seen their faces. This council worked hard to make sure the children would have a "Santa Moment" It was wonderful.

**NV Lindamood and Delilah Arterberry are dressed up for the Enos Chickasaw Christmas dinner.**

Earlier that day, back in the Panola District, the senior Citizens were having a Christmas luncheon and gift exchange. The staff, assisted by volunteers, did a great job of bring the Christmas spirit to the Achille location.

The Panola District Senior Citizens and Martial Arts students participated in the Colbert, OK Christmas Parade. Sensei, Mr. Matt Clark and Mr. Ervin Gust along with some of their Martial Art Students handed out candy along the parade route. It was an exciting day. Thank you to all who participated in the parade. *Colbert is known for its Chickasaw history. The Colbert Ferry was operated on the Red River by Mr. Ben F. Colbert.

2009- A new year and a fresh vision for Chickasaw citizens everywhere.

There are so many things and people yet to see; I can't wait to experience the adventure of 2009 with you, my Chickasaw friends and family.

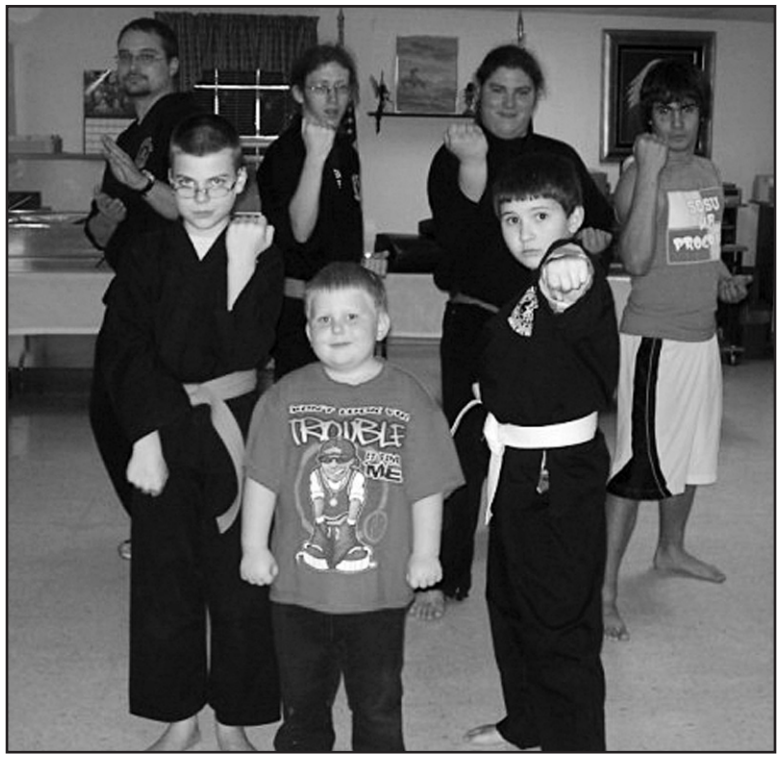
The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6: 24-26

Beth Alexander
Panola District Legislator
P.O.Box 246
Achille, OK. 74720
(580) 283-3409
Bethalexander22@hotmail.com



**Chickasaw Nation martial arts students from the Achille Center, back row from left, Sensei Ervin Gust, Wes Sims, Derick Arthur and John Melton. Front row from left, Travis Skipworth, Nathaniel Marshall and Caleb Barrick.**

**Martial arts students walking in the Colbert, Okla., Christmas parade.**

**From left, Doris Sutterfield, site manager Melba Love and Dolly Nichols serving food during the Christmas luncheon at the Achille Senior Center.**

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# December 2008 Resolutions

**General Resolution Number 26-009**

**Approval of Development Budget Amendment**

**KADA/KYKC Addition**

**Explanation:** KADA AM/FM was purchased by the Tribe 11 years ago and has ended every year with a profit. KYKC was purchased 3 years ago and has not only profited but has substantially increased revenue and profit since the station was moved into the same facility as KADA. This move has allowed a more economical use of personnel and assets which have resulted in a successful rate increase on commercials of over 50%.

As of October 1, 2008, the Nation now owns two more radio stations; KTLS and KKFC. These two stations are currently located in North Hills Center. Moving these two stations into the KADA/KYKC facility will allow them to operate with fewer employees and considerably less overhead.

The building in its current state has no room to accommodate the recently acquired stations. The new stations will require 2 main studios, 1 production studio and 3 offices in order to function efficiently. This will require the construction of a building addition.

Moving the stations into one facility will allow almost a 50% savings in terms of staff. There will be savings on property insurance, telephone charges, electrical usage, office equipment, supplies and the elimination of rent that is now being paid at North Hills Center. These and other savings will total approximately $5,000.00 per month or $60,000.00 per year.

This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for the KADA/KYKC Addition, Project Number 0879-ADA-ADM-C in the amount of $150,000.00.

**Presented by:** Finance Committee

Holly Easterling, Committee Chair

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**General Resolution Number 26-010**

**Gubernatorial Reappointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Chickasaw Nation**

**Carlyle Hill**

**Explanation:** This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Carlyle Hill to the Board of Commissioners of the Chickasaw Housing Authority. Mr. Hill's will fill an unexpired term of office ending on January 23, 2012.

**Presented by:** Human Resources Committee

Dean McManus, Committee Chair

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**General Resolution Number 26-011**

**Authorization for the Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Club to Participate in and Accept the Mentoring Program for At-Risk Tribal Youth from the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs**

**Explanation:** This resolu-

*See **Resolutions,** page 30*

# Committee Reports

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Dec. 15, 2008

Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

Absent: Wanda Blackwood Scott

**Education Committee**

December 8, 2008

Present: Wanda Blackwood Scott, Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Linda Briggs

**Health Committee**

December 8, 2008

Present: Mary Jo Green, Beth Alexander, Judy Goforth Parker, Linda Briggs

Absent: Scott Colbert, Dean McManus

**Finance Committee**

December 8, 2008

Present: Holly Easterling, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, David Woerz, Wanda Blackwood Scott

Absent: Dean McManus

December 15, 2008

Present: Holly Easterling, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Steve Woods

Absent: Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott

**Human Resources Committee**

December 8, 2008

Present: Connie Barker, Katie Case, Mary Jo Green, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Linda Briggs

Absent: Dean McManus

**Land Development Committee**

December 8, 2008

Present: Judy Goforth Parker, Beth Alexander, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**Special Projects Committee**

Present: Beth Alexander, Scott Colbert, Katie Case, David Woerz, Linda Briggs

**Legislative Committee**

December 8, 2008

Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Connie Barker, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

## *2008-2009 Tribal Legislature*

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

**Pontotoc District**

**Seat #**

1. Holly Easterling
   1722 Augusta Drive
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-4002
   holly.easterling@chickasaw.net
2. Judy Parker
   P.O. Box 2628
   Ada, OK 74821
   (580) 332-3840
3. Katie Case
   14368 County Road 3597
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 421-9390
4. Dean McManus
   5980 CR 3430
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 759-3407
5. Mary Jo Green
   2000 E. 14th Place
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 332-2394

**Pickens District**

**Seat #**

1. David Woerz
   P.O. Box 669
   Ardmore, OK 73402
   (580) 504-0160
2. Connie Barker
   509 SW 7th Ave
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 276-5420
3. Linda Briggs
   400 NW 4th
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 276-3493
4. Wanda Blackwood Scott
   Route 1, Box 42
   Elmore City, OK 73433
   (580) 788-4730
   scottdes@telepath.com

**Tishomingo District**

**Seat #**

1. D. Scott Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3960
2. Tim Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 993-2818
3. Steven Woods
   Route 1, Box 430A
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3523

**Panola District**

**Seat #**

1. Beth Alexander
   Box 246
   Achille, OK 74720
   (580) 283-3409
   bethalexander22@hotmail.com

**Citizens At-Large Help Number**

For information on services or help with questions, call toll-free 1-866-466-1481.

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fax: 580.223.7721
rbrooks@pettitmachinery.com
www.pettitmachinery.com
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Norman, Oklahoma 73069
Toll Free 1-866-259-1814
Chickasaw Citizens
(405) 447-2224
(405) 250-6202
Fax (405) 447-4577

## Gilliam named United We Ride vice chair

# *Tribal official named to state transportation council*

**Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services Director Angie Gilliam, right, was sworn in as vice chairman of Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry's United We Ride Council during a November ceremony at the Oklahoma state capitol. Also pictured is Dean Jackson, c. Gilliam represents all tribal transportation interests on the state board.**

A Chickasaw citizen is now a charter member of a statewide council which will serve as a steering committee to meet Oklahoma's transportation challenges.

Angie Gilliam became an official member of Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry's United We Ride Council during a November ceremony at the state capitol, where she was elected to serve as the group's vice chairman.

Gilliam is Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services director and will be a voice for all Oklahoma tribal citizens on the council.

She is the sole tribal representative on the board, which she considers an honor.

"I advise Gov. Henry on public transportation issues from a tribal perspective," she said.

The council's mission is to provide a comprehensive assessment of existing state and federal human services transportation funding programs. The council also evaluates the most effective and efficient use of human services transportation resources including the coordination of transportation services and funding.

The group is also charged with the task of reviewing the transportation policies of state agencies which provide transportation, in an effort to identify the most efficient methods for facilitating the coordination of services.

Gilliam serves on the council with officials from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of the state department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, among others.

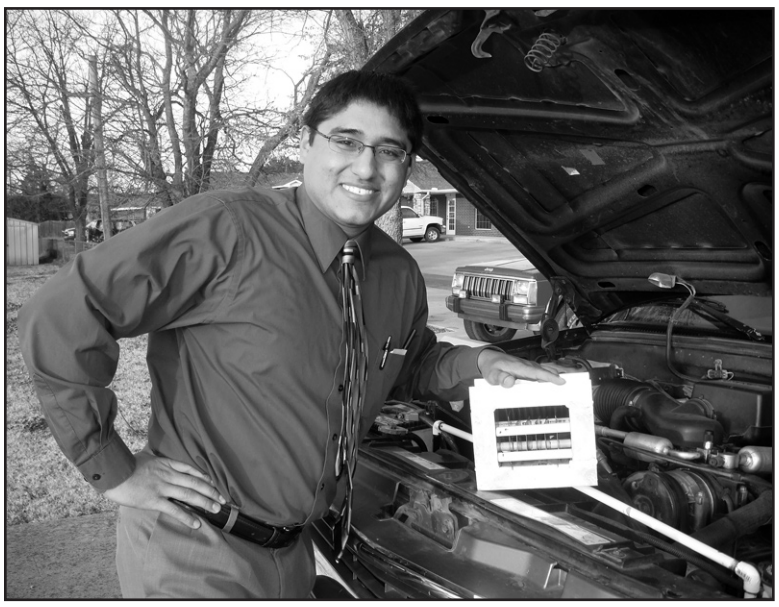
Gilliam, and her husband Jeff, have two children, Karnie and Rance. She has worked for the Chickasaw Nation for 10 years.

For more information about Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services, call the Ada office at (800) 492-2115 or the Ardmore office at (866) 909-3107, or log on to www.chickasaw.net.

Governor Brad Henry's United We Ride Council meetings will be open to the public. Notices are also posted on the group's website **http://okuwr.ride.googlepages.com/uwrgovernor'scouncilmeetingnotices.**

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*

# *Tribal program puts Navy vet in charge of future*



**Chickasaw Nation School-to-Work participant Michael Worcester with the fuel efficiency prototype he has developed. Worcester is majoring an chemistry at East Central University.**

In addition to working toward a degree in chemistry and mathematics at Ada's East Central University though the tribal School-to-Work program, Michael Worcester is also a peer instructor and is working to find ways for vehicles to be more fuel efficient.

The determination to complete his education drew him back to Oklahoma after a stint in the U.S. Navy. Worcester knew he would have to have a job, in addition to attending school.

"I applied for different jobs but needed something that would fit me and my academic schedule," he said.

He learned about the Chickasaw Nation School-to-Work program in 2007 and applied.

Participants in the tribally-funded program are able to attend school in the morning and work for the tribe in their area of the study.

Worcester works as an intern for the tribal Environmental Health and Safety Department when he is not in school. The program allows him to work when he is not in school and receive a paycheck for an eight-hour day.

A keen interest in chemistry and math and a desire to complete his education prompted his decision to leave the Navy after six years of service.

Worcester was in charge of one of eight nuclear reactors on the USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

He spent a total of 96 days at sea and visited 14 countries, including the Philippines, where he met his wife, Reichelle.

Eventually, he was given the responsibility of teaching newcomers the ropes of the program. This experience led to a position with ECU's Supplemental Instruction Peer Assisted Study Session.

In this position, he teaches Chemistry I at East Central, and offers students a different perspective on the material.

"I enjoy doing that, it's part of giving back," he said.

He said going over the material makes him a better student.

"It helps to review," he said. "If you don't look back it is hard to go forward."

In his spare time, Worcester is also working on ways to reduce America's dependency on oil. He is developing a device that makes vehicles more fuel efficient by using hydrogen.

He calls it the Hydrogen Generator and uses his personal pickup as the tester vehicle.

The device was recently showcased at a California conference, and this spring Worcester will present the results of his finding at a scientific conference.

He likens science to a puzzle.

"Someone else may be working on something that compliments what you are doing," he said.

As for the future, Worcester is considering graduate school, working locally, or going back to the Navy's nuclear program, this time as an officer.

"I don't focus on one opportunity," he said

Worcester lives in Stonewall, Okla., with his wife. He is also a member of the Chickasaw Nation Honor Guard.

For more information about the School to Work Program, log on to www.chickasaw.net.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*

## Worcester tops in ECU chemistry

For his efforts in and out of the classroom, Worcester received the 2008 East Central University Chemistry Achievement Award.

He is the sole 2008 recipient of the award, which is given in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement in chemistry.

## A 'moving experience' from Linda Hogan

# *'Rounding the Human Corners' is compelling poetry*

Most adults from time to time read poetry of some kind.

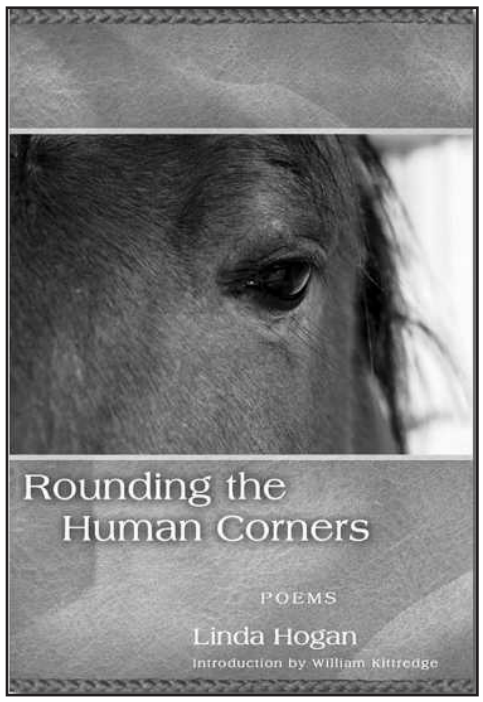
Some may feel we were more eager to understand it in our youth, vigorously reciting it for a grade in English class, or perhaps hiding in a chair on a rainy day to read, fascinated and undisturbed, as vivid words sparked truth or some reality experienced.

And some of us, too, have taken our turn at writing this oft-thought mysterious form of expression, searching for the perfect prose to celebrate moments in our lives, to record one of life's revelations or just our innermost thoughts.

But whether you are only an occasional reader of poetry or the most avid fan, Chickasaw author Linda Hogan's newest book, "Rounding the Human Corners," is a moving experience for anyone who will dare to turn its pages.

In her book, Ms. Hogan pulls us aside from our too-busy-to-stop-and-look world and plunges us into another realm like her oceans, where we meet whales eye to eye, where jellyfish live "like a pulse, a robe of orange splendor in the finery of ocean creation," or where we encounter the sea turtle, "both of us watching as if clasped together in the lineage of the same world…"

Her poem, "Deer Dance," moves us from a chilled snowy morning where deer tracks reveal the deer who were unseen in the hills to a night ceremony of the deer dance, when the clashing of good and evil are danced, women joining in to mourn what was gone. In vivid imagery we see the young man who wears the deerskin dancing, "beautiful and tireless, until he was more than human, until he, too, was deer."




This wonderful collection of poetry is both plain and mysterious, simple but astounding, helping us see the small and yet making us feel a part of what is big and universal. In her poem, "Gentling the Human," Ms. Hogan begins:

There are five holy places in the body:

the heart, the spirit, the secret, the mysterious and the deeply hidden.

These are the ones with the power of gentling the human.

And gentle we become, indeed, as we learn to sing with horses, enjoy the sounds of "long thunder, then the saving rains," experience Ms. Hogan's world and become it.

If you read any poetry book in the coming year, it should be Chickasaw author Linda Hogan's "Rounding the Human Corners." This book is available at the Chickasaw Outpost.

*Contributed by Laura Marshall Clark, tribal humanities and literary arts.*

# Tribal net assets continue on growth path

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and the tribe's BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Chickasaw Enterprises. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of the tribal operation, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Businesses revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes, sales revenue at convenience, travel plazas and tobacco stores, rent and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, *Chickasaw Times* and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditure for education includes education scholarship as well as the tribe's Division of Education. Health expenditures include senior citizens sites, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

**Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending November 30, 2008**

**Tribal Government**

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $24.0 million year-to-date. Expenditures were $6.8 million for the month and $11.2 million year-to-date. There has been a total, beginning in fiscal year 2004, of $113.0 million transferred from the businesses that were reserved for capital projects.

**Chickasaw Businesses**

Revenue net of gaming prizes for November totaled $67 million and $133 million year-to-date. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was $13.0 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

**Statement of Net Assets**

At November 30, 2008, the tribal government funds had $102 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $12.6 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $171 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of November 30, 2008, tribe operations, excluding federal program funding, had assets totaling $923 million with $192 million in payables resulting in net assets of $730 million compared to $712 million at September 30, 2008 or an increase of $18 million.

**Chickasaw Nation**
**Tribal Operations**
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**
**For the Two Months Ended November 30, 2008**

| | | Tribal Government | Chickasaw Businesses | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Revenues** | $ | 2,822,477 | 133,902,390 | 136,724,867 |
| Transfers from businesses to tribal government | | 21,221,918 | (21,221,918) | (0) |
| Total funds available | | 24,044,395 | 112,680,472 | 136,724,867 |
| **Expenditures** | | | | |
| General government | | 1,641,528 | | 1,641,528 |
| Legislature | | 281,963 | | 281,963 |
| Judiciary | | 131,587 | | 131,587 |
| Education | | 1,325,468 | | 1,325,468 |
| Heritage Preservation | | 738,704 | | 738,704 |
| Health | | 2,009,463 | | 2,009,463 |
| Youth and Family Services | | 1,838,506 | | 1,838,506 |
| Nutrition Programs | | 619,891 | | 619,891 |
| Regulatory | | 1,125,551 | | 1,125,551 |
| Assistance Programs | | 1,506,479 | | 1,506,479 |
| Transfer to Loan Program | | - | | - |
| Gaming expense | | | 73,474,108 | 73,474,108 |
| Other businesses' expense | | | 26,122,629 | 26,122,629 |
| Total expenditures | | 11,219,142 | 99,596,737 | 110,815,879 |
| Increase in net assets | | 12,825,253 | 13,083,735 | 25,908,989 |
| Beginning net assets | | 292,701,997 | 412,240,077 | 704,942,074 |
| Ending net assets | $ | 305,527,250 | 425,323,812 | 730,851,063 |

**Chickasaw Nation**
**Tribal Operations**
**Statement of Net Assets**
**November 30, 2008**

| | | Tribal Government | Chickasaw Businesses | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cash and Investments | $ | 102,832,897 | 171,447,418 | 274,280,315 |
| Receivables | | 1,111,964 | 24,288,532 | 25,400,496 |
| Inventory | | | 4,986,336 | 4,986,336 |
| Prepaid expenses | | | 10,400,048 | 10,400,048 |
| Other Assets | | | 41,424,965 | 41,424,965 |
| Fixed assets | | 202,703,767 | 364,237,258 | 566,941,025 |
| Less payables | | (1,121,378) | (191,460,744) | (192,582,122) |
| Net Assets | $ | 305,527,250 | 425,323,812 | 730,851,063 |

## Named top business, volunteer

# *Riverwind, Chickasaw citizen honored by Indian Chamber of Commerce*

**Riverwind Casino general manager Wayne McCormick, left, and Chickasaw citizen Bill James, right, were honored by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma City, during the group's state-wide annual meeting and awards ceremony. The annual Red Earth Festival was also honored. Accepting the award is Red Earth Festival executive director Connie Hart Yellowman, center.**

A Chickasaw Nation-owned business and a Chickasaw citizen were honored by an American Indian business group recently for their community service efforts.

The Oklahoma City chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO), recently honored Riverwind Casino and Chickasaw citizen Bill James during its annual award ceremony, Dec. 4 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Oklahoma City.

Riverwind Casino, located in Goldsby, Okla., received the 2008 Company of the Year award and James was honored as Volunteer of the Year, by the Oklahoma City chapter.

Mr. James, a member of the AICCO Oklahoma City chapter, said he was honored by the award.

"I am glad I am able to volunteer," Mr. James said as he accepted the award.

Mr. James said he enjoyed giving back to others and helping Native-owned businesses succeed.

"This award is long overdue," said Phil Busey, Jr., AICCO Oklahoma chapter president, as he presented the award.

Mr. James works with the Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce preferred vendor program. In his position, he seeks to increase business opportunities for qualified Chickasaw citizen-owned business enterprises and those of qualified minorities, in an effort to recognize and support the entrepreneurial efforts of the citizenry of the Chickasaw Nation.

Riverwind general manager Wayne McCormick, and Kenneth Heald, assistant general manager, were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation Department of Commerce.

"It is with great pride that I will take this award back and share it with the team at Riverwind," McCormick said.

McCormick told the assembly the award could be attributed to Riverwind's dedicated employees.

Riverwind has also been honored this past year by the *Oklahoma Gazette's* Readers' Choice Award and Best Casino in Oklahoma.

"This is due to the great employees at Riverwind Casino and their commitment to customer service hospitality and their dedication to the success of the Casino, Mr. McCormick said.

"Employees of Riverwind work hard to give back to their community though fund-raising efforts such as Relay for Life and blood drives."

The two Chickasaw awards given were among several handed out at the event.

Others honored by the state AICCO board included Corporate Partner of the Year, Griffin Foods; Gaming/Hospitality Company of the Year, Kiowa Casino; and the Tribal Diversification Award, Comanche Nation,

AICCO Executive Director Bernadette Huber said the award recipient selection was based on several criteria including personal drive, impact on the economy of Oklahoma, and what the business gives back to the community.

"These businesses also share knowledge and network with other chambers," said Huber.

"They all have a vision."

For more information about the Chickasaw preferred vendor program, or Riverwind Casino, log on to www.chickasaw.net.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*

## *Chikashaha Apihchi Ikbi*

# Chickasaw youth learn about tribal mission, dive into service projects

Members of Chikashsha Apihchi Ikbi (Leadership Chickasaw) helped spread holiday cheer during the group's December session.

More than 20 members of the Chickasaw youth leadership program made and delivered Christmas cards to Ada Retirement Center residents during on Dec. 13.

The leadership group, made up of 14- to 18-year-old from throughout the Chickasaw Nation, also studied the tribal organizational structure and learned more about the tribe's core values during the December session.

Led by instructor Amy Stanfield, tribal training and career development director, the students learned about the tribe's mission statement "to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw People" and programs and services available to ensure the mission statement is carried out.

The group also learned how the Chickasaw Nation values the Chickasaw people, cultural identity, servant leadership, selflessness, perseverance, trust and respect, loyalty, honesty, integrity and teamwork.

Chikashsha Apihchi Ikbi student Patricia Cornish, a Latta High School senior, said she discovered new aspects about her tribe during the session, including the commitment to being a good neighbor.

"They do a lot of good, not only for the Chickasaw Nation but for people outside the Chickasaw Nation," she said.

Setting goals was another topic discussed during the session.

"She taught us to set small goals for yourself and you can achieve them," Patricia said.

Attending college is one of the goals Patricia has set.

Upon graduation, she plans to attend Oklahoma City University and study business.

She said the Chikashsha Apihchi Ikbi program was building (the group) up to be a better leader in the community.

During the months of December and November, members of the leadership group spent many hours working on service projects within their communities.

The group helped out with a toy drive, a food drive at Thanksgiving, hung Christmas lights in Tishomingo, and volunteered at the Children's Christmas Celebration in Ada and Ardmore, among other projects, said Tonya Bierce, youth leadership coordinator.

Laura Ash, of Ardmore, said she handed out Christmas cards and helped a retirement care center resident brush her hair.

"It made me feel good to help someone out and to give back," Laura said.

During the 12-month program, which began in September, leadership group members will gain first-hand knowledge regarding a wide variety of topics and issues that affect their lives.

To be a member of the group, students are required to maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better. To remain in good standing, members must attend a minimum of 75 percent of all regular meetings, fundraisers and service projects.

The group's next meeting is January 10.

**Chikashsha Apihchi Ikbi (Youth Leadership Chickasaw) member Bailee Hatton helps children with Christmas crafts during the Chickasaw Nation Children's Christmas Celebration, conducted last month at the Community Center.**

For more information about the Chikashsha Apihchi Ikbi program, contact Tonya Bierce, youth leadership coordinator, at (580) 310-6620.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*

*Swimming, karate, great snacks!*

# Kids get active, learn healthy habits during After School program

Mike McKee

**Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts Instrutor Matt Clark, left, gives a few pointers to Jason Morgan, an After School program participant.**

More than 30 school children participated in the Chickasaw Nation After School Program this fall.

Sponsored by the tribal Division of Youth and Family Services, the innovative program gives students an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities, including swimming, karate, and weekly trips to Lazer Zone Family Fun Center. Education on good nutrition is also emphasized, and the students receive plenty of healthy snacks.

The program began in late October and ended December 12.

Cederic Sunray, Chickasaw Nation language program manager, spent one afternoon with the students teaching Chickasaw words and phrases, such as bayo chi (dribble) through sports.

During interactive games of basketball, kickball and soccer, using Chickasaw words was a part of the rules.

When asked what he likes about the program, Reese Hamilton said, "We get to have fun, every time."

"I learn how to stay active and eat better food," said Jason Morgan, an Ada fourth-grader from Washington Elementary School.

Jason has participated in the After School Program three times and said he looked forward to it every year.

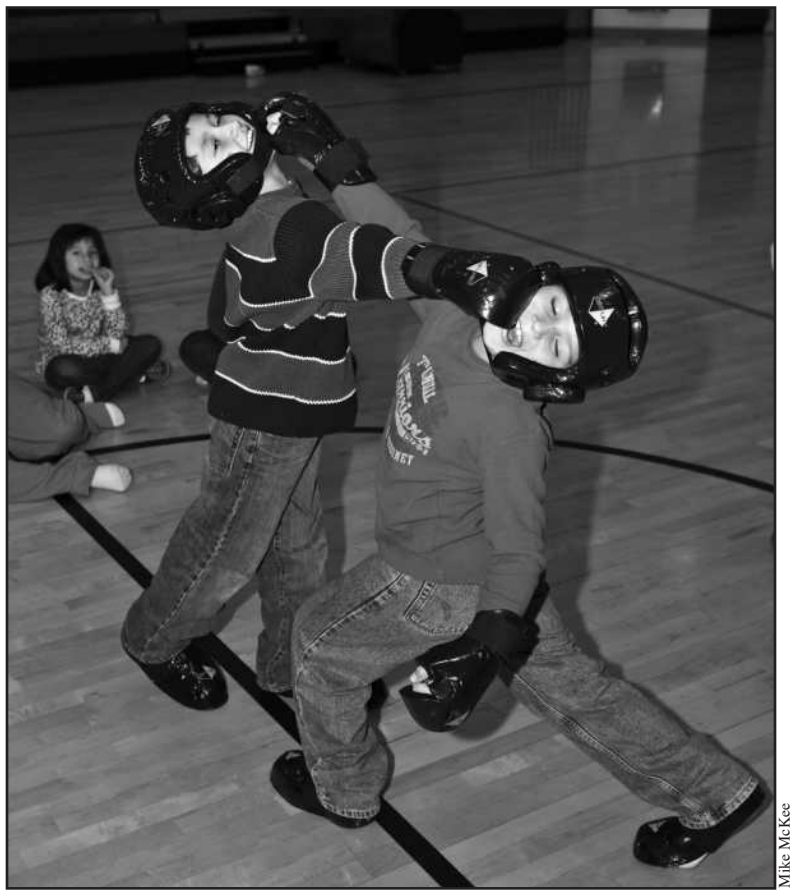
Kele Parnacher, a Latta School fourth-grader, said playing soccer was his favorite activity of the program.

"I eat salad and healthy things," said Jaris Smith, a Hays Elementary School first-grader.

The program is offered twice a year, in the spring and fall. Chickasaw students and children of Chickasaw Nation employees are eligible for the program.

For more information about the program, log on to www.chickasaw.net.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*



Mike McKee

**Chickasaw Nation After School Program participants Reese Hamilton, right, and Jarrett Ellis try out their martial arts skills.**

# *Arizona Native American Affairs officer provides insight on development of Indian art*

ADA, Okla. - East Central University's Hayes Native American Study Center recently hosted Dr. Traci Morris, Chickasaw citizen and coordinator for the State of Arizona's Office of Native American Affairs.

Dr. Morris was on hand as part of a lecture series.

A former art gallery owner, researcher and author, Dr. Morris has developed a unique theory of humor in Native American art.

"It is the humor that unites us," she said. "It is sacred and was essential in our survival."

She addressed the fact that many of the stylistic components associated with Native American art were fabricated by tourism and representations of native peoples in the media.

"These types of art forms became popular at roadside markets, so Native Americans kept producing them because they sold, she said.

"What we were left with was an art industry essentially created by well-meaning, white art proponents."

Contemporary art by Native Americans has become a type of social commentary, Dr. Morris said, addressing the concept of the "white man's Indian."

"All of these stereotypes and the duality experienced by a lot of Native Americans are present in the themes and images of this art," she said.

Also present is the "trickster" motif, traditionally represented by a coyote or rabbit.

"This storytelling was originally providing a way for Native Americans to 'escape' colonization," she said.

During her lecture, she provided examples of how some newer Native American artists are expressing themselves through the arts, including Cherokee artist Kade Twist Phoenix.

Dr. Morris earned a doctorate in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. She has more than eight years of teaching experience at the University of Phoenix On-Line, Pima Community College, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University.

Dr. Morris also has a background working for several museums and galleries. This experience includes internships at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian at the George Gustave Heye Center in Manhattan and the Arizona State Museum.

*Contributed by Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.*

# Clothing grant application deadline is February 2

The application deadline for the Chickasaw Nation Youth & Family Services clothing grant for the 2008-2009 academic year is fast approaching.

Chickasaw children ages three to 18 who have not received the clothing grant for the 2008-2009 school year **must** submit an application no later than February 2, 2009 to be considered for a grant. If a grant has already been awarded for this school year, students may not reapply until August 2009 for the 2009-2010 school year.

The grant, funded by the Chickasaw Nation, assists eligible Chickasaw students by providing $200 to purchase clothing for the school year.

The Youth & Family Services clothing grant application is available for download at www.chickasaw.net, or by emailing clothinggrantprogram@chickasaw.net. The grant must be completed in its entirety. The application is also available in person or by mail at the Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth & Family Services building, 231 Seabrook Road, Ada, OK 74820, phone (580) 272-5585.

The application must document full-time student status with verification from a school administration representative. Only original, signed applications will be accepted. Faxed or electronic copies cannot be processed.

All applications must be accompanied by a Chickasaw Nation citizenship card for applicants over age 12, or a citizenship certificate for applicants under age 12.

Awards will be delivered by U.S. Postal Service certified mail. All applicants should allow three to four weeks for processing.

Grants will be provided in the form of a reuseable VISA gift card, and will be awarded once per school year. The card now has a five-year expiration date, no inactivity fee assessment and the card balance is now available on-line.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*

*Mr. Perdue stays connected with students*

# Chickasaw principal recognized for school leadership excellence

**Award-winning principal and Chickasaw citizen Brent Perdue with his wife, Kim, and their children, Brendan and Myah.**

"*Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever*." - Mahatma Gandhi.

This favorite quote of Brent Perdue, Chickasaw citizen and elementary school principal, describes the importance and dedication he places on the growth of both students and teachers in his administration.

His philosophy has proven successful. His dedication and excellence in leadership have been recognized at a national level.

In 2007, his school, Madison Elementary in Spokane, Wash., received the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award. That same year, Mr. Perdue was one of just six U.S. principals selected for the Department of Education's Terrel H. Bell Award for School Leadership.

"I was very humbled by receiving this award," he said. "To be in such good company with the other recipients was just an honor."

Winners of the Terrel H. Bell Award are chosen for having made a difference in their schools through achieving dramatic increases in student outcomes despite challenges.

Mr. Perdue said he had always been interested in teaching, particularly following in his father's footsteps and becoming a college professor.

During his sociology coursework at the University of Washington, he had an opportunity to sit in at an inner-city Seattle elementary school. It was there that he found his true calling.

"There was an instant connection," he said. "I thought I could make a difference in these children's lives by teaching on the elementary level."

He spent the next year earning his teaching certificate from Whitworth College and then taught second grade for eight years.

Mr. Perdue said he always loved the classroom, but he soon became interested in being in a leadership position.

"I was doing some lead teaching and loving the challenge, he said. "One day the principal pulled me aside and asked if I'd ever thought about being a principal, and that got my wheels turning."

After earning a master's degree in administration, he became a principal in the Spokane school district.

While he's not directly in charge of a group of students, he still keeps student success his first priority.

"By supporting teachers in their personal and professional growth, I can help them support the learning of the children," he said.

At times he misses having a close-knit classroom of students, but said the overall impact of his work was very rewarding.

"Instead of just affecting 20 or so students, I support 70 plus staff members," Mr. Perdue said. "From there, my work has the chance to make a difference in the lives of 500 kids."

As a principal, Mr. Perdue not only focuses on the academic performance of the students, but on their personal growth as well.

He makes a point to make daily visits to each classroom and knows the children by name.

"He has the kids' heart in mind at all times," said one teacher at Madison Elementary School.

Mr. Perdue knows that personal struggles often have an effect on how the students adjust to the classroom.

"It's important to me to get to know these students and work with them on every front," he said.

Mr. Perdue recently transferred within the Spokane school district from Madison Elementary to Audubon Elementary.

He and his wife, Kim, have two children, Brendan, 8 and Myah, 3.

*Contributed by Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.*

*'It's okay to be different'*

# Chickasaw woman becomes Murray State freshman - at 62

Caroline Burklin, 62, has embarked on a new adventure. In August of 2008, she joined scores of 18-year-olds as a college freshman at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Okla.

"That's the best way to describe it," she said. "It truly is an adventure!"

Now an English major, Ms. Burklin has always loved learning.

"My father would read the paper and then I'd insist that when he was done, he'd read me the funnies," she said.

She couldn't wait to turn five so she could go to school.

"I didn't want to wait on him to read them anymore," she said. "I wanted to read them myself."

After graduating from high school, she chose cosmetology school. Decades later, her mother's illness inspired her to go back for a college education.

Ms. Burklin's mother recently passed away after suffering from Alzheimer's.

"I saw what my mother went through and it was just a horrible thing to watch," she said. "I wanted to do everything I could to prevent it from happening to me."

She was further encouraged by many studies suggesting that continued learning, reading and writing may delay the onset of Alzheimer's.

"It's so important for my generation to continue to learn because the statistics for developing Alzheimer's are staggering," she said.

Her intentions were put into action one day while sitting at home.

"My mother had passed away, my daughter is grown, so I thought 'what now?,' she said.

"So I pushed myself out of my chair and went to sign up."

A caretaker for many years, Ms. Burklin turned her attention inward when it came to her desire to continue her education.

"I did this for me," she said. "This is the one thing I've done for myself only."

She admitted that attending the first day of classes was a step outside her comfort zone.

**Chickasaw citizen Caroline Burklin. Ms. Burklin recently became a college freshman at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Okla.**

"It was different, but once I took the plunge, I haven't regretted it since," she said.

She compares her relationship with her classmates to that between a grandparent and a grandchild.

"Its fun, like having a room full of grandchildren," she said. "They treat me with so much respect and I like sharing my life experiences with them."

She describes her first semester of classes as an enlightening experience filled with new people and personalities. She also believes she offers a unique perspective to class discussions.

"Age frees you to be who you are," she said. "By now I've realized its okay to be different and not follow the crowd. My ego is gone."

Ms. Burklin hopes to be an example to other senior citizens who have put their aspirations aside.

"Just do it," she said. "If I can do it, anyone can! Taking the first step is hard, but once you get past it, learning new things is an amazing experience."

Aside from her classes, Ms. Burklin is active at the Chickasaw Nation senior center in Tishomingo and loves photography.

She will continue to pursue her degree, with classes scheduled for Spring 2009.

"After that, I'm not sure," she said with a laugh. "At my age, you don't make too many future plans!"

*Contributed by Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.*

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### Tribal Arts Academy ignites new opportunity

# *Chickasaw student earns major music scholarship*

A casual decision to attend the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy put Lone Grove, Okla., student Cruise Berry on a short path to a valuable scholarship opportunity.

Rebecca Lucas, a friend Berry described as a very good actress, asked if he would like to attend the Arts Academy in the summer of 2007. He decided to attend for the music composition component because there was not much else going on that summer.

In mid-December of this year, Berry accepted an $85,600 scholarship to study music composition at Oklahoma City University.

He said it was "exhilarating" to find out he had been offered the scholarship, because he "wasn't expecting anything, especially in that amount."

While Berry had been playing trumpet in the band since sixth grade, he said the Arts Academy is what piqued his interest in music composition.

"That was my first time to try my hand at bothering to write music down and notate it properly," said Berry. "Up to that point, I wasn't really considering pursuing a music career, or anything post high school having to do with music."

That experience helped him begin to focus his energy on a possible career in music, but he said an ambivalence began to creep in between 2007 and 2008.

"Like a lot of high school seniors, I was kind of in a quandary as to what to do," he said. "Am I going to do accounting? Oh, that's boring! Am I going to be a pro football player, a composer, a doctor, a brain surgeon?" he chuckled.

This summer, after receiving further instruction at Arts Academy from Jerod Tate, a successful Chickasaw classical composer, Berry firmed up his decision to study music.

Gov. Bill Anoatubby offered his congratulations to Berry for earning the scholarship.

"This young man is obviously very talented and deserving of this award," said Gov. Anoatubby. "We are very pleased that the arts academy played a role in helping him make the decision to pursue this opportunity."

Berry began playing piano in eighth grade. He was self-taught, but very serious.

"I really, really got into it, reading a lot of literature and music theory treatises and history," he said.

He was playing compositions by Bach, Beethoven and many other classical composers.

This, he said, set him apart from other members of his family, who are more likely to listen to Kenny Chesney or Reba McIntire.

"I'm somewhat of an oddity in my family," he said . "I'm the only person in my family that I know of that does anything remotely musical."

Because of his size, others thought he would be a natural athlete.

"I didn't play football, I played basketball," he said. "I was like six feet tall in the sixth and seventh grade, so it was 'you're post.'"

He didn't really enjoy sports, but he did have a natural affinity for music.

"Once I got my feet wet or my fingers dug into music, I realized it was something I wanted to work at," he said. "It didn't come easily. I really, really had to work at it. My work ethic and my discipline came naturally. I started out very basic, then I taught myself the classics."

**CRUISE BERRY**

When he made the decision to audition for the scholarship at OCU, he took lessons from Dr. Robert McFadden, a professor at Southeastern Oklahoma University.

"I finally got to take real lessons from a real piano teacher," said Berry.

Dr. McFadden also helped Berry select pieces to play at the audition. Those included compositions by Bach, Rachmaninoff and Bartók.

After the audition, Berry interviewed with a composition professor and submitted the two compositions he created during the 2007 and 2008 sessions of the Arts Academy.

Berry said his experience at the Arts Academy had also "ignited" an interest in his Chickasaw heritage. He hopes to someday incorporate that heritage into some of his compositions.

"I had a great-grandmother I used to get to speak with about my Chickasaw heritage," he said. "I wasn't interested in it when she was telling me, and now that I am, she's gone. I wasn't very wise. I was respectful to my elders, but I didn't listen to what they had to say. I realize now that was a serious bad choice on my part."

*Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.*

# Loving Chickasaw home will offer perfect place for three siblings

The tribal Department of Family Advocacy foster care and adoption program is looking for a loving, caring Chickasaw family to consider opening its heart and home to provide adoptive placement for beautiful group of three siblings.

The oldest is a 12-year-old in the seventh grade with a very outgoing and witty personality. He is a very handsome, caring and intelligent young man. He is a talented basketball player and loves music. He has a kind heart and loves his sisters.

The middle child is a nine-year-old fourth grader. She has a smile that lights up the room and is loving and affectionate. She is a good student who loves riding her bicycle in her free time and is a big fan of "High School Musical."

The youngest is a six-year-old in kindergarten. She is quiet and shy until she is familiar with someone. She has a beautiful smile and big brown eyes. She loves playing dress up and the color pink.

All three of these children have friendly, engaging personalities and are a delight to be around. They will do well in a two parent home with an encouraging, supportive and loving mother and father.

If you are interested in becoming an adoptive home for these children please contact Jeanie Anderson in the Department of Family Advocacy at 580-272-5550 or e-mail jeanie.anderson@chickasaw.net.

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## Beading, blow guns, brain tanning and more

# *Classes offer instruction on historic Chickasaw trades and crafts*

**Participants in the double-walled basket weaving class soaking and preparing their reeds for weaving.**

The Cultural Resources Department of the Chickasaw Nation Division of History and Culture spends several Thursday nights each year continuing the practice of historical trades of the Chickasaw people.

"Our mission is to preserve the culture of the Chickasaw Nation, said Dixie Brewer, cultural revitalization specialist.

"We want to make sure that the art forms that have been a part of the Chickasaw culture for centuries do not become lost."

The Cultural Resources Department offers demonstrations at events and for different organizations, including schools.

The cultural education classes, however, are an opportunity for everyone, not just Chickasaw citizens and employees, to be exposed to the trades.

The classes also allow Native American artisans a chance to share their talents with others.

"These classes really benefit everyone," Brewer said. "The teachers teach their crafts and in turn make their students teachers as well, allowing the traditions to continue."

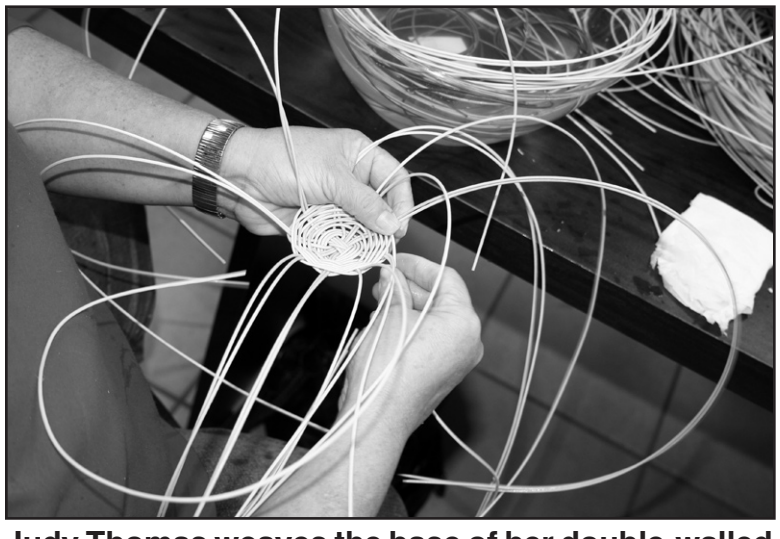
Upcoming opportunities for 2009 include moccasin and blow-gun making, loom beading and brain tanning classes.

For more information, contact Brewer at (580)436-2603.

*Contributed by Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.*

**Wayne Walker and Carlin Thompson at a peyote stitch beading class hosted by Cultural Resources.**

**Juanita John learning the intricate art of peyote stitch beading.**



**Judy Thomas weaves the base of her double-walled basket.**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# November 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award recipients

**Hannah Landreth**

Hannah Landreth, daughter of Lloyd and Barbara Landreth, of Tulsa, Okla., is a November 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.

Hannah Landreth

Hannah is a senior at Jenks High School and was nominated by Native American education coordinator Linda Rodgers.

"Hannah has been a member of the Jenks High School swim team throughout her high school career," said Ms. Rogers. "She has been swimming with the Jenks Trojan swim team since she was six."

Hannah is a member of the Jenks swim team and a member of the student council. She was recently named a National Merit Semifinalist and received the Wendy Heisman award for Jenks High School.

"I would like to go to medical school and become a neonatologist," said Hannah. "My dream is to one day participate in medical missions in underserved Latin American countries."

**Blakelee Hayes**

Blakelee, daughter of Jeff and Jennifer Hayes, of Ada, Okla., is a November 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Positive Citizenship.

Blakelee Hayes

Blakelee is in the third grade at Latta Elementary and was nominated by third grade teacher Scarlett Barton.

"Blakelee is a great student," said Ms. Barton. "She is a star citizen who follows the rules and gets along with others."

Blakelee is a member of the Chickasaw Honor Club and has perfect school attendance. She enjoys playing coach-pitch softball and basketball. Blakelee likes to show cattle, sing and participate in dance and church activities. She is also a member of the Pontotoc County 4-H Cloverbuds.

"My goals for this year are to win Champion Pee Wee Showman, win a division at Junior Nationals and continue developing my singing," said Blakelee.

**TaDyn Walker**

TaDyn, son of Gary Walker and Amber Fox, of Ada, Okla., is a November 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Academics.

TaDyn Walker

TaDyn is in the second grade at Latta Elementary and was nominated by second grade teacher Kristi Smith.

"TaDyn is one of the best behaved students I have ever been lucky enough to teach," said Ms. Smith. "He is a great asset to our classroom atmosphere."

TaDyn likes to skateboard and play games. He enjoys basketball, football and baseball.

"I want to go to college when I get older," said TaDyn.

*Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.*

# Chickasaw students receive degrees and honors

**Three Chickasaw East Central University students attended the honors ceremony prior to commencement Saturday, December 13 at the ECU Ballroom in Ada. Pictured, from left are Chickasaw Nation Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Renee Hogue, Alicson Scott, Ashley Joyce and Kay Colbert.**

ADA, Okla. - Nine Chickasaw students graduating from East Central University were honored for their educational accomplishments Saturday, December 13 at the Kerr Activity Center on the ECU campus.

The ECU Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and the Chickasaw Nation hosted an honors ceremony at 8 a.m., in the ECU Ballroom prior to commencement services.

Chickasaw honor students earning at least a 3.0 grade point average received honor stoles and students earning a 3.5 grade point average or higher received a feathered honor stole.

Commencement ceremonies were conducted at 10 a.m. where 11 Chickasaw graduates were recognized for completing bachelor and master degrees.

Graduates included Ralania Anderson, bachelor of science in nursing; Mark Atteberry, bachelor of science in vocal music; Kay Colbert, bachelor of general studies; Elizabeth Farmer, master of education; Ashley Joyce, bachelor of science in computer science; Sheleatha McGee, master of education; Gary McKee, master of education; Brandon Rolan, bachelor of arts in history; Alicson Scott, master of science in human resources; Chad Trentham, bachelor of science in chemistry; and Annette Yott, bachelor of science in early childhood education.

Honor graduates were Ralania Anderson, Mark Atteberry, Kay Colbert, Elizabeth Farmer, Ashley Joyce, Sheleatha McGee, Gary McKee, Brandon Rolan and Alicson Scott.

For more information about Chickasaw Nation educational services and programs, call (580) 421-7711 or visit www.chickasaw.net.

*Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.*

# Spring scholarship and grant applications due February 1

Scholarships and grants are available through the Chickasaw Nation Higher Education department for full-time and part-time undergraduate, graduate and doctoral college students.

Students must be Chickasaw and possess a Chickasaw citizenship card. Grants and scholarships are intended to assist students by providing funding for tuition, fees and books for those students pursuing a degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

The scholarship and grant spring semester application deadline is February 1. Deadline for the summer semester is June 15, and fall semester deadline is September 1. Scholarships and grants are available to all Chickasaw students living within or outside Chickasaw Nation boundaries.

Eligibility requirements vary depending on the type of scholarship or grant. For more information and to obtain required scholarship and grant applications, contact the higher education department at (580) 421-7711, deborah.hook@chickasaw.net or www.chickasaweducationservices.com.

*Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.*

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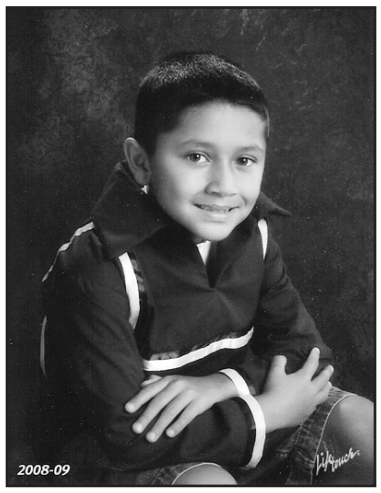
# Birthdays

Hazel Houck

**Hazel Ruth (Gardner) Houck,** of Oklahoma City, will celebrate her 90th birthday Jan. 31, 2009. She was born Jan. 31, 1919 at Ardmore, Okla., to Albert and Ethel Gardner. Her mother died when she was 11 years old leaving her to help raise her two younger brothers. She married Archie Preston Houck, now deceased, and they had three children, Lavern, Bette and Janet Kay. She is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Houck remains an active member of her community by volunteering at Baptist Memorial Hospital and HUGS project. She has currently crocheted over 700 caps for the troops in Iraq through HUGS.

She is proud to be a member of the Chickasaw Nation.




Reese Hamilton

**Reese Hamilton** turned eight on Oct. 28. He celebrated his birthday with friends at the East Central University swimming pool. Reese is a second grade student at Hayes (OK) Elementary School. He enjoys attending church at Mitchell Memorial, hanging out with friends and playing video games.

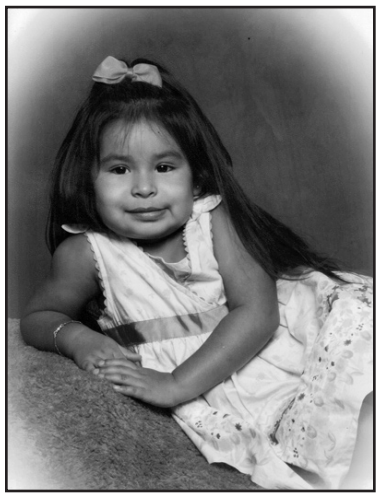
Reese is the son of Randall and Christina Hamilton.

His maternal grandparents are Brad and Mindi Fish, of Harrah, Okla., and Tommy and Cassandra Russell, of Choctaw.

His paternal grandparents are Harold Hamilton and Carol Hamilton, of Ada, Okla.

We love you so much!

God Bless you!



Piper Taylor

**Piper Taylor** celebrated her third birthday Nov. 23, 2008 at Maw Maw's house with her family and friends.

Piper is the daughter of Steve and Lou Taylor, Ardmore, Okla.

Her sisters are Amy Johnson, Stephanie Taylor, Selina Taylor, Chanena Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor, all of Ardmore.

Her grandparents are Russel and Hawaii Anoatubby, the late Diann Anoatubby, and Mary Taylor, all of Ardmore, and the late Woodrow Taylor,.

Happy Birthday!

Bethany Easley-Wade

**Bethany Easley-Wade** celebrated her 14th birthday Oct. 30, 2008.

Happy 14th birthday Boo! Hope your birthday wishes come true!

Love,

Your family

Bobbie Easley

**Bobbie Easley** celebrated her 19th birthday September 7, 2008 with her friends at her house. She later celebrated with dinner with her family.

Love you Mommy!

Your little angels,

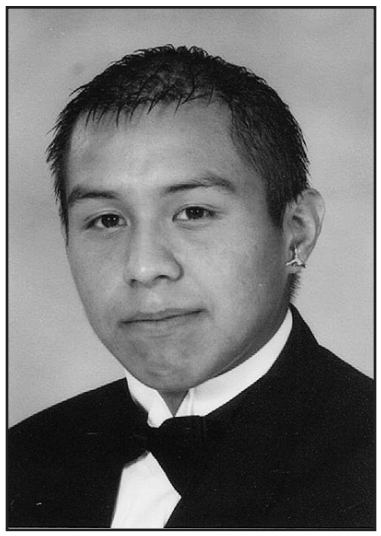
Diamond and Marquis

Sarah Arles

Sarah Ann Arles turned 15 on December 10, 2008.

She is the daughter of Joe Looney, of Davis, Okla., and Francis Lewis, of Ardmore, Okla. Happy Birthday!

Joe and Armetta Looney



Jordan Alexander

**Jordan "Chewy" Alexander** will celebrate his 18th birthday Jan. 9, 2009.

Jordan is the son of Sharon Smith and Cody Alexander, Jr. He is the grandson of Leona and Kuton Smith.

Happy Birthday!

Jaydess and Mom

Danielle Cruse-Easley

**Danielle Laroy Cruse-Easley** celebrated her seventh birthday December 14, 2008 at her home in Oklahoma City with family and friends.

Cake was made of a princess theme and served with ice cream.

Danielle is the daughter of Calvin Easley and Linda Cruse, of Oklahoma City.

She is the granddaughter of Carl Cruse, of Oklahoma City, Carrie Howell, of Sulphur, Okla., and Joe and Loretta Easley, of Ardmore, Okla. Her great-grandmothers are Cora Taylor and Delma Easley.

## Help us update our military list!

The Chickasaw Nation is updating the military database for those on active duty and stationed away from home.

If you know of a Chickasaw in the service whom you would like to add to the list or update their address, please contact Joy Barrick in the public affairs department at (580) 310-6451 or email joy.barrick@chickasaw.net.

## *'Renegades' do well at shootout*

**Front row from left, Jordan Chisholm, Jordan Willis, Bryce Holland. Back row from left, Coach Sara West, Patrick "Peewee" Tims, Elijah Gibson, Randis Gray, Reese Hamilton and Coach Randall Hamilton.**

On November 28, the Chickasaw Renegades competed in the sixth Annual Little Warriors Showcase Shootout in Henryetta, Okla. The basketball tournament is an annual event for Native Americans. There were 65 teams that competed.

The Chickasaw Renegades were in the 7-8 year-old boys division and captured third place. They were the only Chickasaw team in their division.

They did a fantastic job and everyone is very proud of them. Six out of the seven boys are Chickasaw, as well as both coaches.

Again, Congratulations boys! You guys did great!

*Swimming, running, biking for 15 hours*

# Chickasaw athlete completes Iron Man Triathlon in Idaho

**Kristina Grisham**

In June, a Chickasaw wife and mother completed an Ironman Triathlon in Coeur D'alene, Idaho.

Kristina Grisham of Cabot, Arkansas, her husband Don, and Chickasaw daughters, Lindsay, 17, Sydney, 12, and eight-year-old Allie took a two-week vacation from Arkansas to Idaho.

The Ironman Triathlon is one of the most grueling and inspiring athletic events in the world. Athletes swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and then run a 26.2-mile marathon, all done in succession and to be completed in 17 hours maximum time. Mrs. Grisham trained for six months before the event, and completed the Ironman event in 15 hours. Five friends from Arkansas competed along with Mrs. Grisham.

"The most surprising thing was the swim," Mrs. Grisham said. "We had prepared to wear a wetsuit because the water would be cold, but it was colder that I had expected at 59.5 degrees. Your face felt frozen which made it hard to breathe. You could still see snow in the mountains so we knew the water would be very cold. And once the race started, I got kicked in the face and people were swimming over me, so it was a challenge to just finish that part."

Coeur D'Alene means "heart of the awl" or "shrewd." This Idaho town is at the top of the Idaho panhandle and a short drive from Canada.

A few days before the event, Sydney and Allie ran in the Ironman Kids Race, where they both received medals.

Mr. Grisham was so inspired, both he and Mrs. Grisham signed up for Ironman Lake Placid in July of 2009.

The Grisham family drove out through the Grand Teton Mountains and Yellowstone National Park where they saw buffalo, moose, a bald eagle and bears. They went whitewater rafting and horseback riding.

On the drive home, the Grisham family stopped at the Crazy Horse monument as well as Mount Rushmore.

" They were both amazing works of art," Mrs. Grisham said. "Crazy Horse was still not completed yet but when finished it will be so much bigger than Mount Rushmore."

Mrs. Grisham's parents are Myles and Sandy Homer, of Ardmore, Okla., and her grandmother is the late Lillian Blackwood Fowler, of Pauls Valley, Okla.

## *Hello, Mr. President*

**Chickasaw citizen Rob Engle, of Seattle, shakes hands with then-presiential candidate Barack Obama. Mr. Engle, an Obama supporter, is the son of Bob and Kay Engle, of Oklahoma City.**

# Births

**Jace Michael Davis**

Joshua and Esther Davis announce the birth of their son, **Jace Michael Davis**. Jace was born Oct. 24, 2008 at 6:44 p.m. at Carl Albert Indian Hospital. He weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and measured 19 1/2 inches at birth.

Proud grandparents are Mike and Sheila Davis, of Ada, Okla., and Lupe Fernandez, of Yantis, Texas.

Great-grandparents are Ronnie and Joyce Greenwood, of Stratford, Okla., Ferrie Treadway, of Ada, and Daniel Mena, of Anthony, N.M. Great-great-grandparents are Jerry and Billie Kellogg, of Francis, Okla.

**Mariah Haley Flanagan**

Mary Homer Ahtone proudly announces the birth of her great-granddaughter, **Mariah Haley Flanagan**.

Mariah was born Sept. 9, 2008 at Honolulu, where her mother is stationed. She weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz., and measured 21 inches at birth. Her parents are Amber and Branden Flanagan, of Honolulu.

She is the granddaughter of Brian Wika, Orlando, Fla., and is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Lucille Ahtone. She is the direct descendant of Solomon J. Homer.

Her aunts are Heather and Tahda Ahtone of Norman, Okla., and her uncle is SSGT Alan Wika, currently serving in Iraq.

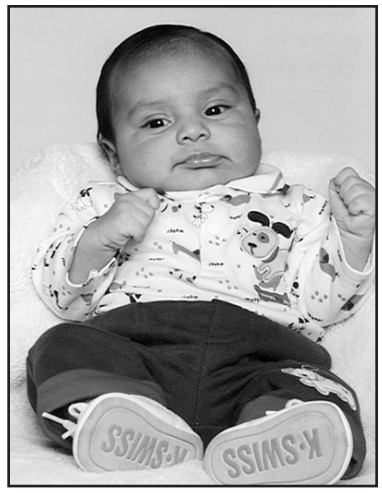
**Axton Ryder Pierce**

Dusty and Kayla Pierce announce the birth of their son, **Axton Ryder Pierce**. Axton was born Nov. 19, 2008 at Grady Memorial Hospital, Chickasha, Okla. He weighed 6 lbs., 3 oz., and measured 17.5 inches at birth.

He is the grandson of Bruce and Cathy Pierce, of Chickasha, Freddy Hill, Jr., and Renee Epperley, of Dibble, Okla.

He is the great-grandson of Bob and Frankie Durington, of Tishomingo, Okla., Fred and Martha Hill of Dibble, and Joe and Mary Epperley, of Spencer, Okla.

Aunts and uncles are Brock Pierce, Eddie and Shristy Porter, Chad and Shelly Hanna, Nicole Minor, Jackie Buchanan, Mike and Becky Allen, Tim and Patty Griffen and Sherry Buckley.



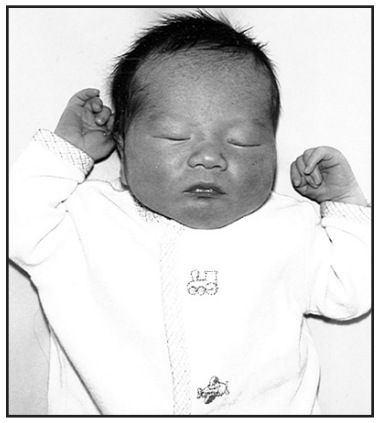
**Elliott Anderson Frazier-Buck**

Rana Frazier and Ronald Buck announce the birth of their son, Elliott Anderson Frazier-Buck. He was born at 3:08 p.m., Oct. 15, 2008, at Carl Albert Indian Hospital, Ada, Okla. He weighed 8 lbs., 9 ozs. and measured 21.5 inches at birth.

He joins a brother, Sungie, and a sister, Reagan.

He is the grandson of Lena Frazier, of Ada, and Dennis Frazier, of Stratford, Okla., and Jeri Denise Buck, of Holdenville, Okla.

He is the great-grandson of Bernita Buck, of Holdenville, the late Vernon Elliott "Sungie" Buck, the late Able and Rebekah LeFlore and the late Rev. James and Evelyn "Ida" Frazier.



**James Marlis Jensen**

Harold and Tishina (Perry) Jensen of Reno, Nev., welcomed the birth of a son, James Marlis Jensen. James was born Nov. 3, 2008 at 11:44 p.m., he weighed 6 lbs., 15 oz., and measured 19 1/2 inches at birth.

Proud siblings are Jordyn (Perry), 8, Hayllee, 3 1/2, and Harley, 15 months.

Grandparents are Patrick and Debra Perry, of Reno. Great-grandparents are James and Patsy Perry, of Ada, Okla., and Marlis and the late Judy Hunter, of Reno.

He is the great-great-grandson of Chickasaw Ruby McKinney, of Ada, and the great-great-great-grandson of Chickasaw original enrollee the late Caroline (Illetewaka) Milligan, who graced our presence for 108 wonderful years.

# Shannon sworn in as state representative

Oklahoma State Rep. T.W. Shannon speaks from the Oklahoma House floor as daughter Audrey listens from atop her Dad's desk. Rep. Shannon (R-Lawton) was recently re-elected.

Chickasaw citizen and Oklahoma State Representative T.W. Shannon was among 92 House members who took the oath of office during a House ceremony Nov. 18.

Rep. Shannon (R-Lawton), was re-elected by a wide margin. He will begin serving his second term.

"I believe this upcoming legislative session is going to be a very important one in these economic times," Rep. Shannon said. "I think we have the will and the leadership to keep the tax burden low on the average Oklahoman while working on Oklahoma's roads and bridges, getting more educational dollars to the classrooms and finding ways to ease energy costs on both households and businesses."

Rep. Shannon is a member of the Native American Caucus. During the 2008 legislative session, he served as assistant majority whip and vice chair for the judiciary and public safety committee.

He holds a law degree from Oklahoma City University and a bachelor's degree in communications from Cameron University.

Rep. Shannon, his wife Devon and the couple daughter Audrey, live in Lawton.

# Complete the Customer Service Survey and win!

Chickasaw citizens who complete a tribal customer service survey will have the opportunity to win $100.

Chickasaws can access the Customer Service Survey by going to the tribal website at www.chickasaw.net. The survey seeks input from citizens regarding tribal programs, services and customer service.

Once you have completed the survey, you can enter the $100 giveaway. The $100 will be given away each quarter. Winners will be announced in *the Chickasaw Times*.

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# *Completes med tech course*

**Kaycie Rattan**

A Chickasaw student has recently completed course work in a medical field.

Kaycie Marie Rattan graduated in October after successfully completing a course in X-ray/ Medical Technician at Heritage College, Oklahoma City.

Ms. Rattan works at St. James Mayes Clinic in Midwest City, Okla.

She has two sons, O'Day and Devon. She is the daughter of Monty Sampson, of Ada, Okla., and Kerrie Rattan, of Oklahoma City.

Her grandparents are Arleen Rattan, of Meeker, Okla., and Joe and Loretta Easley, of Ardmore, Okla.

She is the great-granddaughter of the late Cora Taylor and Delma Easley.

The entire family is very proud of Kaycie.

# *Parents, children honored at Foster Care Banquet*

**Presenting awards to foster care families, from left, Chickasaw Nation Youth and Family Services Administrator Jay Keel, Chickasaw Nation Director of Department of Family Advocacy Angela Conner, and Jeanie Anderson, Chickasaw Nation Manager of Foster Care and Adoption/ event organizer.**

More than 75 parents and children attended the Chickasaw Nation Department of Youth and Family Services annual Foster Care banquet Dec. 6 at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center, in Ada, Okla.

The banquet recognized the families for their importance to the foster care program. Families come together with other families who provide foster/adoptive homes for the many children in need each year.

"This is the second year our family has attended the banquet and it's always a great opportunity for us to meet other families with adoptive children, share stories, parenting tips, and to celebrate the holidays with the children we have been blessed with through this program," said a foster care family in attendance.

Santa surprised the children by arriving after lunch to deliver presents as everyone gathered around the Christmas tree. Along with a gift from Santa, each child in attendance received a gift card and a coat courtesy of the Chickasaw Nation. A plaque was awarded to every family recognizing and honoring their support and contribution to the foster care/adoption program.

"It's a privilege to work with all the foster care parents and we greatly appreciate them opening their hearts and homes to these children," said Jeanie Anderson, Chickasaw Nation foster care and adoption manager. "These parents are instrumental in filling the void in these children's lives when they are separated from their families. As foster care families they play a vital part in the children's healing. We couldn't do it without them!"

The banquet opened with music from "Injunity," the 2008 Native American Music Award winners for "Best debut group of the year." The band provided music throughout the day. Chickasaw Princess Carla Lane, and Junior Chickasaw Princess Julie Underwood, performed the Lord's Prayer before the honors were awarded and lunch was served to the families.

Chickasaw Nation Youth and Family Services Administrator Jay Keel, along with the Department of Family Advocacy director Angela Connor and Jeanie Anderson, the event organizer, were there to present awards and enjoy the day celebrating with the families.

"To have a child in your arms and as a part of your family is a blessing to so many parents and I would like to thank all the families for everything they do in raising these wonderful children," said Mr. Keel.

For more information on the Chickasaw Nation foster care and adoption programs and how to become a foster care or adoptive parent, contact the Chickasaw Nation Department of Family Advocacy at (580) 272-5550 or visit their offices located at 231 Seabrook Road in Ada, Okla., in the Youth and Family Services building.

*Contributed by Jeremy Oliver, tribal media relations.*

# Chickasaw named to All-State softball team

**Brianne Bryant**

A Chickasaw high school student athlete has recently been named to an All-State team.

Kelsey Brianne Bryant, a senior at Lexington (OK) High School, was named to the 2008 Oklahoma All-State fast-pitch softball team. Brianne and the other All-Staters were selected by the Oklahoma Softball Coaches Association.

Brianne has been a starter all four years in high school. She plays center field.

As a member of the All-State team, Brianne will play for the Large West team on June 13 at the University of Oklahoma softball stadium.

Brianne has a career .348 batting average. She has been named to the Sooner All-Conference team for the past three years.

Her individual awards include Newcomer of the Year, Star Bulldog, Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year, and Most Valuable Player.

She has been on teams that have won three district titles, a regional championship and competed in the state championship quarterfinals.

Brianne also plays for the Lexington slow-pitch softball team, where she also plays center field. The team won the Class 5A state championship in spring 2008. She was selected the team Outstanding Overall Performer and was named to the Oklahoman All-City Slow-pitch Softball team.

She was selected Canadian Valley All-Conference for the past three years.

Brianne also plays point guard for the Lexington High girls' basketball team. In the spring, she competes in track and field. She has run the 100-meter and 400-meter, and competed in the long jump and high jump the past three years at state. She placed sixth in the 100-meter dash as a freshman and was fourth in long jump as a junior.

Brianne is a member of the Chickasaw Honor Club. She has been named a Chickasaw Student of the Month and received the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.

Brianne is the daughter of Faron and Nanette (Stutte) Bryant, of Lexington. She is the granddaughter of Irene (Williams) Stutte, of Clarita, Okla.

# *Four generations*

**Four generations of Chickasaws include from left, Sharon Eye, Mable Geraldine Rosson, and Stephanie Plakk holding Nadia Elizabeth De La Ossa.**


## Request your 2009 Programs and Services Directory Today!

This directory outlines numerous programs and services available to you and your family.

The directory offers:

- Information on all programs and services available in one place
- Program descriptions
- Important phone numbers and contact information
- Office locations and hours of operation
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To reserve your copy of the 2009 directory, please call (866) 466-1481. The directory can also be reserved online by visiting http://www.chickasaw.net/servicedirectory.



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# *Junior Princess enjoys serving tribe*

**By JULIE UNDERWOOD**
**2008 - 2009**
**Junior Princess**

Chukma, My name is Julie Underwood. I am 14 years old and I am your 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Chickasaw. I was crowned September 29 and it has been a really great experience for me.

I have met many new people and gone to many different events. November 21 we attended the Chickasaw Nation Elders Thanksgiving dinner, where we performed the Lord's Prayer and helped to serve the meal to the elders. December 4 we were in the Ada Christmas parade and Dec. 6 we performed the Lord's Prayer for the Chickasaw Nation Foster Care banquet. During December we attended the Chickasaw Nation Children's Christmas parties in Ada, Purcell and Ardmore. During the Christmas Celebrations we took our picture with Santa Claus and got to talk to all the children about what they had asked Santa to bring them for Christmas.

December 19 we attended the Chickasaw Elders Christmas dinner.

Being the Jr. Chickasaw Princess has helped me to be more outgoing and has shown me what all the Chickasaw Nation has to offer. It is a privilege and honor for me to get to represent the Chickasaw Nation by being your Jr. Princess.

If you would like more information on how to become a princess or about the princess program, pleas contact, Toni Castleberry at (580) 272-7710 or email toni.castleberry@chickasaw.net

**From left, Chickasaw Princess Carla Lane, Little Miss Chickasaw Chelsea Wedlow and Junior Princess Julie Underwood with Santa Claus.**

*Archery, firearms, fishing and more*

# Kids, parents enjoy outdoor experience at Hayaka Unta Winter Camp

Marcy Gray

**Ca-te Jesse and his son four-year-old son Drennan at Hayaka Unta Winter Camp.**

The 2008 edition of Winter Hayaka Unta Camp, December 5-7, featured a change in venue to the Chickasaw Ranch, near Davis, Okla.

Hayaka Unta, Chickasaw for the expression "to stay in the wilderness," gives Chickasaw youth, their parents and guardians a taste of the great outdoors and a chance to try new activities.

A total of 17 students, 15 parents and nine camp counselors braved the elements for three days and two nights.

Archery, firearms, fishing, exploring and hiking were all offered at the camp, along with all the trappings of tent camping.

Campers also attended the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation hunter safety course, led by Gary Pratt, Chickasaw Ranch operations manager.

"All hunters between the ages of 16 and 36 must have completed the state course in order to get their Oklahoma hunting licenses," he said.

Thirteen young people passed the exam and received their certifications.

"I learned about guns and stuff," 12-year-old Thomas Palmer said of the course. He said he now wanted to test his new knowledge during a hunting trip.

Twenty tents served as home away from home during the three-day camp, and unlike in years' past, camps and recreation staff members cooked and served all meals.

Fish, hamburgers, hot dogs, homemade cookies and a big breakfast every morning were featured on the menu. Campers also warmed up with cobbler made in a Dutch oven each night.

A chili cook-off was Saturday night's main event.

The group was split into four teams and various chili ingredients were selected by each team, to enable them to create their own special brand of chili.

After a very competitive effort, judges Gary Pratt, Richard Wilkerson and Colt Digby determined the winning team to be Jordan Wilson, Gary Wilson, Harmon Lewis, Jaime Lewis, Hunter Chapman and Randy Chapman.

The food earned high praise from all the campers, especially the adults.

"The food has been really good, the staff members are doing a very good job" said Joe Palmer, of Oklahoma City.

Palmer said his daughter, Katie, had been looking forward to the camp since the acceptance letter arrived in the mail about a month ago.

"She gets dad all to herself for three days," he said.

At the camp's conclusion, Katie and her dad were named Outstanding Campers. They received a new tent for their accomplishment and will be invited back to future Hayaka Unta camps.

Katie said she experienced several new things at the camp, including seeing a teepee for first time and watching bow maker Glen Leming at work. In a random drawing, camper Hunter Chapman was the lucky winner of the bow.

Watching a bow being made was a first for many adults, including parent Brian Cooke, of Ada.

"It is just fascinating," he said.

Cooke and his son, Sean, attended camp for the first time.

One of the highlights of Sean's day was finding a cow skull in the pasture.

"I am going to sell it on ebay!" he exclaimed.

Other campers chose to make dream catchers with Eddie Easterling or go hiking during the day.

This camp was a return trip for a few of the 32 campers.

"It's different, a change of scenery," said Jamie Lewis, of Lone Grove, Okla.

Prior to this year's event, Lewis attended the camp twice with her son, Harmon.

When asked if she stayed warm during the night, she said "oh, no."

After sunset Saturday, campers were treated to some great campfire songs and Christmas carols, led by Pratt, who is a well-known cowboy singer and songwriter.

This was Pratt's first experience with the camp and he said the ranch was an excellent location for the event.

"We have enough room here to give the kids a true outdoor experience, unlike going to a state park with the constant flow of people and vehicles," he said. "Also, this program can truly make a difference in a young person and adult's life. After spending a week with our youth services staff I can tell that this is what they strive for, and the reason they all work so hard to make Hayaka Unta a success."

Students received a backpack filled with a variety of goodies, including sleeping bag warmers, flashlights, whistles, ponchos, waterproof matchbox, and compass to enhance their camping experience.

Hayaka Unta is offered in December and March at no charge to Chickasaw families. Proceeds from Chickasaw Nation businesses fund the camp.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth & Family Services at 580-310-6620, or log on to www.chickasaw.net.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*

Marcy Gray

**Katie Palmer, Oklahoma City, was selected the Outstanding Camper at 2008 Hayaka Unta Winter Camp, conducted last month on Chickasaw Ranch near Davis, Okla.**

Marcy Gray

**Quinnlan King, of Moore, Okla., hoists the discovery he made while exploring at Camp Hayaka Unta. Quinnlan attended camp for the first time with his mother, Sherri.**

## Open to writers from sixth grade to age 24

# *Young Chickasaw writers sought for creative writing contest*

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities announces an exciting invitation to Chickasaw students and young adults to enter the 2009 Chickasaw Youth Creative Writing Contest. Winners in three age divisions will win cash prizes, medals and have original works published.

Open to enrolled citizens of the Chickasaw Nation, youth in grades six through 12 and young Chickasaw adults through age 24 may enter up to three works in this year's contest in three categories: poetry, short story, and narrative or essay. A panel of judges will evaluate original works based on age division, category of work, how well the writing relates to the topic, artistic form and literary expression.

The deadline for entries is Friday, February 27, 2009. This year's theme for all entries is "Remembering Our Past, Building Our Future."

"The annual Chickasaw Youth Creative Writing Contest is not only an opportunity for Chickasaw youth to develop in the literary arts, but also a wonderful means to showcase the gifts and talents of young Native authors," said Lona Barrick, administrator for the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities.

Young writers can get started early on literary work for the contest at an after-school Writer's Workshop to explore the topic and to enhance writing skills. After-school workshops will be conducted throughout the Nation on the following dates and at these times and locations:

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Tishomingo Area Office
815 E. 6th Street
**Tuesday, Jan. 20**
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Purcell Area Office
1603 S. Green Avenue
**Wednesday, Jan. 21**
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Kingston – Chickasaw Children's Village
**Tuesday, Jan. 27**
4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Ardmore Area Office
39 N. Washington
**Monday, Feb. 9**
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Ada – Sugg Building 2nd Floor, 100 #. 13th Street

Contest winners will be announced March 17 and awarded cash prizes and medals at 11 a.m. on March 28, during the Chickasaw Nation Youth Arts Month Celebration at the Community Center in Ada.

In the 2008 contest, young writers like Byng Junior High School student Mercedes Milligan won first place for her short story in her age division. Her story of a Chickasaw girl who was captured by another tribe was titled, "The Treaty of the River."

Her story began, "The young Chickasaw girl, Shatara, stood with the warm, spring air blowing through her hair and the tepid water of the river flowing gracefully over her feet. She had finished filling the pots with fresh water and had begun to listen to the rustling of the leaves and the small cries of a hawk up above." Mercedes was one of 12 youth winners in the 2008 contest.

Full details about the contest, the after-school Writer's Workshops or downloadable entry forms may be found at www.chickasaw.net. Completed entry forms along with proof of tribal citizenship must be submitted with entries on or before Friday, February 27, 2009.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520, or email laura.clark@chickasaw.net.

# *Kids enjoy sports, language simultaneously*

With 50 plus children in attendance, the Annual Chickasaw Nation Language Youth Sports camp was Dec. 19, 22, and 23 at the Chickasaw Wellness Center in Ada, Okla.

Himitta Alhiha Hochokoshkomo, "The Youth are Playing," was hosted by the Chickasaw Nation Department of Culture and Language who designed the event as a way to get children interested in learning the Chickasaw language.

**Anoli Billy swinging for the fences in a round of Chickasaw Softball.**

"This is one of the best camps each year for the children, it really gives them an opportunity to learn the Chickasaw language in a new and exciting way," said Lisa Johnson Billy, Oklahoma State Representative and parent of children attending the camp.

Himittaalhiha Hochokoshkomo featured To'li' (stickball), basketball, baseball, softball, wiffleball, volleyball, soccer, and capture the flag. The focus of the camp was to interactively involve the use of the Chickasaw language in a variety of sporting events to make learning fun and easy to remember for the children.

"It's a wonderful event for the children and a really fun way for them to learn the Chickasaw language through the interactive use of the Chickasaw language and sports," said Cedric Sunray, the language/sports coach for the event. "We really appreciate the families that joined us at the event. They made for an all around great day of learning and competition."

The event was split into three age divisions: Dec. 19 hosted grades 1-3; Dec. 22 grades 4-6; and Dec. 23 grades 7-9. This allowed for smaller groups each day and a better opportunity for all participants to be actively involved in the camp.

"The Language Youth Sports Camp is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to learn the Chickasaw language in a fun and engaging way," said Josh Hinson, director of Chickasaw Studies, Chickasaw Language program. "By learning their language this way, our children see the Chickasaw language is not something of the past."

For more information on learning the Chickasaw language, contact the Chickasaw Nation Language Program at 580-272-5322.

*Contributed by Jeremy Oliver, tribal media relations.*

## 2008 Chickasaw Youth Creative Writing Contest
## First Place Poem, Division 1
## (Grades 6-8)
## *"I Have Heard Stories"*
### By Micah Hart

I have heard stories
About my ancestors
Long since gone
Coming from the homelands
Chickasaw strong
Chickasaw strong

They came on the trail
I-ah-ne-ah and She-no-ka-cha
A time in American history
It was wrong
It was wrong

Roberson Carlton was their son
He spoke Chickasaw
His children, he did not teach
They will belong
They will belong

Frances was his daughter
Dawes Number 1717
Oklahoma life was difficult
The allotment—gone
The allotment—gone

Vernon was her son
An athlete strong and true
He was loved by everyone
Chickasaw strong
Chickasaw strong

Barry was his son
An artist, musician and Grandpa
He makes me laugh, he's fun
Sing a song
Sing a song

Jeannie is his daughter
She works too hard
An artist and a writer
She's my mom
She's my mom

I am Micah Hart
A little bit of everyone
That has come before
Chickasaw strong
Chickasaw strong

**Joined by Oklahoma State Rep. Lisa Johnson Billy, top left, were the grades 4-6 Language sports campers at this years Himittaalhiha Hochokoshkomo. Front row from left are Randa Hatter, Kevin Hickman, Nahinli Billy, Wyatt Wall, and Brenna Hamilton. Back row from left, State Rep. Billy, Anoli Billy, Billy Wall, Carlos Coppage II, Caitlynn Hammer, Starla Wood and Sylence Gore.**

# Chickasaw Foundation honors 'Friends of the Foundation'

The Chickasaw Foundation hosted its annual Friends of the Foundation reception and art auction on November 14 at the First Baptist Church in Ada. The program began with a presentation of the Lord's Prayer by the Chickasaw princesses, Chelsea Wedlow, Little Miss Chickasaw; Julie Underwood, Junior Chickasaw Princess; and Carla Lane, Chickasaw Princess. Johnna R. Walker, executive director, introduced special guests, and Kennedy Brown presented the welcome address.

Each year the Chickasaw Foundation recognizes individuals and groups for their contribution to our organization and events. This year's recipients were:

**Volunteer of the Year –** Mr. Scott Wingo has served on our scholarship advisory sub-committee for the last three years. This year he came back several times after his shift and substituted for those who were unable to make the reviews. Scott is extremely thorough in reviewing applications and this helps make our job easier.

**Volunteer Group of the Year –** The Division of Commerce-Ground Transportation is an exceptional group managed by Kent Blevins. They are always willing to accommodate our schedule when we require use of the buses, and the drivers go out of their way to make passengers feel welcome. They have assisted as chaperones on our Upward Bound trips when needed, and also provided transportation during Cultural Evening this year. We thank them for making the safety and comfort of our staff and students a priority.

**Philanthropists of the Year –** David & Carolyn Nimmo – David and Carolyn graciously established the *David & Carolyn Nimmo Graduate Business Scholarship* to assist a Chickasaw graduate student pursuing an MBA. Carolyn has served on the Chickasaw Foundation Board of Trustees as an advisory board member since August 2003, and David is the general counsel and chief of staff for Chickasaw Nation Industries. We are pleased to work with them in this new capacity, and appreciate their kindness and generosity.

**ECCP Donor of the Year –** Dr. Stephen O'Grady has been donating to the ECCP program since becoming an employee of the Chickasaw Nation Health System. He also devotes time to the Angel Food Community Ministry, Men's Ministry and the Byng athletic department. Dr. O'Grady is the father of three and married to Jill who works at Byng High School. His work and contributions help make a difference in the lives of others each day.

This year along with our regular awardees we had several volunteers who worked really hard and we felt they deserved special recognition as well.

**Special Recognition**

**Ms. Lynn Chatfield & Mr. Waylon Cotanny** - Lynn and Waylon have been volunteers for the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program serving as chaperones for several of the week-long summer trips. We appreciate them very much for sacrificing time away from their families, staying up late every night on the trips and most importantly ensuring the safety of our students.

**Mr. Stacy Edgar** - Stacy is always willing to assist the Chickasaw Foundation, and doesn't hesitate when asked to do something. He went above and beyond assisting us with various items related to Cultural Evening this year.

**Ms. Michelle Key** - Michelle was a ball of energy during Cultural Evening. Upon completing her regular assignment, she stayed and helped with clean-up and storage.

**Ms. Gwen Postoak** - Gwen has been assisting the Chickasaw Foundation for many years. She is always one of the first to arrive at Cultural Evening and last to leave. She has a great attitude which she conveys to those who volunteer with her.

**Mr. Darrell Walker** - Darrell is always there to assist the Chickasaw Foundation with events. He helps us with set-up and stays until everything is done, sometimes close to midnight or later, but always with a smile on his face.

A PowerPoint presentation and the benediction by Mr. Kennedy Brown led into the silent auction of Native American artwork. The proceeds from the auction will continue to fund the ***Chickasaw Foundation Fine Arts Scholarship***. This scholarship along with the others offered by the Chickasaw Foundation will be available for application in February 2009 with a June 1, 2009 deadline.

## Employee Charitable Contribution Plan

A philanthropist is someone who donates his or her time, money, and/or reputation to charitable causes. Would you like to be a philanthropist?

The Chickasaw Foundation participates in the Employee Charitable Contribution Plan as one of the designees selected to receive funds. Monies that are given by employees to the Chickasaw Foundation are held in a special account and distributed during the year, by our Board of Trustees, to organizations and charities. Distributions are based upon need or impact the organization or program has to help the community and its people.

In 2008, contributions were made to the following charities and organizations on behalf of Chickasaw Nation employees: House of Hope Pregnancy Care Center, Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, The Archeology Conservancy, C.A.R.E. Cottage, Cowboy Crisis Fund, Pontotoc County Firefighters Association, Meals on Wheels of Norman, Pontotoc County Literacy Coalition, Moundville; University of Alabama Museums, new Upward Bound parent committee fund, Ataloa Memorial Scholarship, new non-profit scholarship, a new vo-tech scholarship, endowment of a new health professions scholarship, employee benevolence fund, *Giving Back: A Century of Philanthropy in Oklahoma*, Chickasaw Foundation operating fund and backpacks for Upward Bound and Chickasaw Children's Village students.

*The practice of* charity *will bind us..*

*will bind all* men *in one great brotherhood.*

*-Conrad Hilton*

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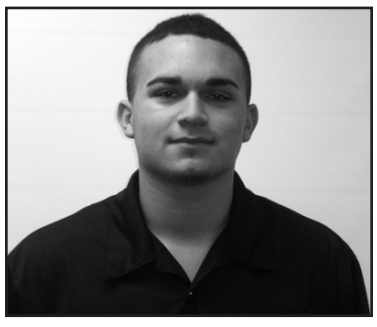
# Wright, Martinez are 'Students of the Month'

**Cheyenne Wright**



**Rique Martinez**

The Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Month program recognizes and honors students who display the following characteristics: good citizenship, respectful to peers and program staff, program participation, leadership qualities, positive attitude, demonstrates responsibility, community service participation, cultural/tribal activities participation and demonstrates a positive academic work ethic.

Cheyenne Wright is the October Student of the Month. She is a junior at Velma-Alma High School, and has been a Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound (CFUB) participant for the last two years. This past summer she received an award for a poem she read.

Cheyenne participates in Future Farmers of America (FFA) as the chapter president, earning a proficiency award in shop production, as well as participating in softball and 4-H. She serves as the drum major for the Pride of Velma-Alma.

She is very active in her church youth group and community service activities by participating in the community dinner, singing carols to nursing home residents and taking part in mission trips.

Her future plans include attending Murray State College to major in biology and minor in education. Upon graduation she would like to be an agricultural teacher, work at an Indian heritage museum or enlist in the military.

Rique Martinez is the November Student of the Month. Rique is a senior at Ryan High School and has been a member of the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program for the last three years.

Rique was selected to represent the CFUB at the leadership conference in the spring of 2008. In December 2007 Rique received the CFUB citizenship award for his participation in Upward Bound as well as being a role model for new students.

He is active in community projects such as cleaning the park and hanging Christmas lights. Rique is involved in FFA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), yearbook and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Along with his school obligations he is also a caretaker to his mother and brother while working a part-time job.

He plans to graduate college, work and continue to take care of his family.

# Upward Bound students learn about careers, credit

**Upward Bound students attend a seminar on "Knowing and Understanding Credit."**

A Christmas dinner and dance were hosted at the Microtel in Davis, Okla., on Dec. 13. At this meeting the participants received information on careers and interviewing skills. Students donated non-perishable food items and unwrapped toys that will be given to children in need.

A student meeting was November 22 at Lazer Zone. During this meeting participants attended a seminar on "Knowing and Understanding Credit," led by Kyra Childers, loan counselor for the Chickasaw Nation. After the seminar participants had the opportunity to enjoy the facilities at Lazer Zone.

On October 17, Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound participants visited the Oklahoma City Zoo and attended a class which focused on primate behavior. As part of the class the students were required to write an essay that focused on similarities and differences of the various types of primates. Approximately 70 students attended the class and monthly meeting.

The staff of the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program is excited about the return of Steve Cheadle, director of TRIO programs. Steve had been stationed in Iraq for the past 14 months.

Academic advisors Susan Webb, Becky Easterling and Patty Daniels attended the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs 37th annual conference in Hot Springs, Ark. The theme of this year's conference was "The Competitive Edge: Equipping TRIO for 21st Century Challenges." Staff attended several workshops presented by the University of Washington TRIO training team. The SWASAP community service project was Heifer International, "a non-profit charitable organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas, dedicated to relieving global hunger and poverty. It provides gifts of livestock and plants as well as education in sustainable agriculture to financially disadvantaged families around the world."

The program would like to thank the Division of Commerce for the donation of Bedre chocolate baskets for the silent auction to help with Oklahoma's "fair share" donation to the Council for Opportunity in Education.

## Chickasaw Foundation officers elected to association positions

The Association of Fundraising Professionals Oklahoma Chapter conducted its National Philanthropy Day (NPD) on Friday, November 14 at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City.

NPD is a day set side by various chapters throughout the U.S. to recognize and pay tribute to people in the community who have made an impact in philanthropy.

Association of Fundraising Professionals' Oklahoma Chapter Board of Directors conducts its yearly business meeting at NPD. Congratulations to Mrs. Johnna R. Walker, who was elected to serve as the President-Elect and Ms. Tracie Carter who was elected as chair of Philanthropy!

# *Kids' Christmas Celebrations hosted in Ada, Purcell, Ardmore*

Marcy Gray

**Four-year-old Mason Pace visits with Santa at the Purcell Children's Christmas Celebration. Mason is the son of Toni and Rex Pace.**

Christmas cheer was spread throughout the Chickasaw Nation during the annual Children's Christmas Celebrations. The celebrations were hosted throughout December.

Santa and his helpers made stops in Ada, Purcell and Ardmore.

Chickasaw youth had the opportunity to make Christmas frames, create holiday cards, visit with Santa, and participate in fun games, such as bean bag toss and a fishing game.

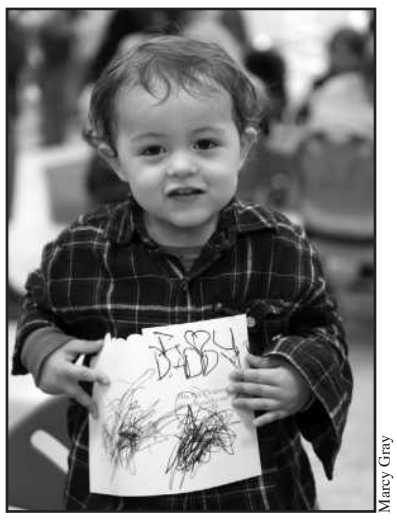
"The bowling was the best," said five-year-old Emily Campbell, of Lexington, Okla. Emily attended the Purcell event with Bryanna Campbell, 10 and Lanelen Boots, 12, both of Blanchard, Okla., and little Jaden Tucker.

"This is an awesome party," said Tyler Lee Herrera at the Purcell event.

"It's kind of fun," said Samantha Champman shortly after trying milk bottle bowling at the Ada event.

The events were conducted in Ada at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center, in Purcell at the Purcell Multipurpose Building and in Ardmore at the Convention Center.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*



Marcy Gray

**Jeremiah Carlson shows a card he made for his dad at the Ada Children's Christmas Celebration.**

Marcy Gray

**Bryan and Mandy Nash and their three-year-old daughter, Bryanna, take a break in a sleigh during the Purcell Children's Christmas Celebration, conducted Dec. 11. More than 75 families participated in the yuletide event. Celebrations were also hosted in Ada and Ardmore during December.**

## *LEGO League,* continued from page 1

through an obstacle course, the teams had 2 minutes and 30 seconds to gain as many points as possible.

"My favorite part of the tournament was building a tower during our teamwork presentation," said Blockhead team member Jordan Stick-Greenwood. "It was challenging but fun."

The Chickasaw Nation LEGO League program provides Ada-area Chickasaw students ages nine through 14 an opportunity to discover the world of science and technology. Using LEGO parts, computer programming, problem-solving and engineering skills, teams designed a robot and prepared presentations in eight weeks prior to tournament play.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation LEGO League program, contact the science, technology and math program manager Stan Townsend at (580) 421-7711.

*Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.*

# Winter baseball camp brings 100 'boys of summer' to Ardmore

Mike McKee

**Dalton Pickering, a Shawnee High School baseball player, sharpens his catching skills as Kylee Davidson, a Latta Junior High player, holds the bat at Chickasaw Nation Baseball Camp, Dec. 22-23 at Ardmore High School's indoor baseball facility. More than 100 Native American boys ages eight to 18 attended the camp.**

The thermometer may be hovering near the freezing mark outside, but inside Ardmore High School's indoor baseball facility, the boys of summer came out to play at Chickasaw Nation Winter Baseball Camp.

The sixth annual camp was Dec. 22-23.

More than 100 male campers from across Oklahoma learned baseball fundamentals and life skills, such as hard work, goal setting, dedication and self-discipline, during the two-day camp.

Campers learned these skills from coaches with real-world experience.

Twenty coaches, including former University of Oklahoma standout and San Francisco Giant Damon Minor, former minor-leaguer Will Hunt, and current minor league players Chuckie Caufield and Drew Miller, instructed campers on improving their fundamental skills of hitting, pitching and fielding.

Caufield, an Ada High School graduate, is currently a farm hand for the Milwaukee Brewers and Miller, a Latta alumnus, plays in the minors for the San Diego Padres.

This year marks Minor's fourth time coaching at the camp.

The young players, from ages eight to 18, are the reason for Minor's commitment to the program.

He said he keeps returning "to help the kids and give them the knowledge we have learned over the years."

Each year he sees many students returning to the program, and can see their improvement from year-to-year.

"This is an opportunity many of these kids may not otherwise get," Minor said.

This year, Hunt, a former national title pitcher, coached the camp for the third time.

"It is nice to get back around baseball," he said. "This camp is a learning experience for everybody."

Former camp participants Brandon Postoak, Heath Wall, Ryan Estes, Dusty Rowland and Tyler Gillium returned this year as members of the staff.

All five men are currently playing baseball at the college level.

"By helping the players out, they help me out," said Estes, a Byng High School graduate who now plays for the East Central University Tigers in Ada.

Estes said the camp gets him motivated for the upcoming season.

"This camp gets me back in the swing of things."

The repeated "ping" of baseballs hitting an aluminum bats was evidence many players got into the swing of camp. Many hours of the camp were dedicated to solely to batting

*See **CN Baseball Camp,** page 30*

## Wichita Council members reflect on activities of 2008, plan 2009

The Wichita Council had a nice meeting in December. We got to listen to the hymns on CD sent to us by the Language Department and we made an effort to sing along. The accompanying printed material helped us understand what they were singing and the meanings of the words. Mrs. Elliott was given some beginning genealogy material from one of our members, Joyce Barnes. Mrs. Elliott helped Mrs. Barnes put names to several people in pictures and line out their relationships to her. We discussed how to get started with genealogy and what is needed to begin an in-depth search. We are hoping to begin writing some of the stories more formally starting this spring. We talked about some of the things we participated in this past year and started to make suggestions on what we want to do in the coming year.

Some of the things we did in 2008 were: we had the Chickasaw Dance Troupe demonstrate for us and the City of Wichita, emissaries from China, France and Mexico; we participated in the Riverfestival Pow Wow; we screened the documentary on TeAta, the Chickasaw White House and The Chickasaw Trail of Tears; we began our language/cultural studies with help from the Chickasaw Nation's Language and Cultural departments; our presence was noted in the Trail of Tears Memorial Walk and we partnered with USD 259 and Mid America All Indian Center by offering gifts of educational materials.

In the coming year, we plan to expand our scope to involve more youth oriented activities, learn more of the language and culture, and continue to share our information with others.

We invite you to come share with us! And we wish everyone a Happy New Year!

# CHICKASAW COMMUNITY COUNCILS and EVENTS

### *OKLAHOMA*

#### *ADA*

***2008 Volleyball League***
November 18-January 6, (580) 310-6620

***Chipota Chikashshanompoli***
***(Chickasaw language club for children ages three to 12)***
January 17, (580) 272-5310

#### *CONNERVILLE*

***Connerville Area Chickasaw Community Council***
2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Tony Poe, 580-421-4994

#### *KINGSTON*

***Marshall County Chickasaw Community Council***
2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Patricia Bostick, (580) 564-3607

#### *NEWCASTLE*

***Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community Council***
3rd Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
Todd Griffith, 405-615-1303

#### *OKLAHOMA CITY*

***OKC Metro Chickasaw Community Council***
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Linda O'Hagan, 405-350-3311

#### *PURCELL*

***Purcell Chickasaw Community Council***
4th Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
Betty Kemp, 405-364-0355

#### *TISHOMINGO*

***Johnston County Chickasaw Community Council***
3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Ann Fink, 580-371-3351

### *CALIFORNIA*

***Inland Empire/Desert Cities Chickasaw Community Council***
Lynn M. Dorrough, 909-213-7273

### *COLORADO*

***Chickasaw Community Council of Colorado***
Quarterly Meetings
Stephen Bingham, 303-377-4637

### *KANSAS*

***Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita***
3rd Sunday at 3:00 p.m.
Lynn Stumblingbear, 316-945-9219 or Pam Harjo, 316-393-0696

### *NEW MEXICO*

***New Mexico Chickasaw Community Council***
Chris Rodke, 505-980-1368

### *TEXAS*

***Chickasaw Community Council of South Texas***
San Antonio, TX Area
Michele Moody, 210-492-2288

***Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas***
Austin, Texas Area
2nd Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Gene Thompson, 512-258-7919

***North Texas Chickasaw Community Council***
Dallas/Fort Worth Area, TX
3rd Saturday at 2:00 p.m.
Stan Farmer, (682) 234-4910

*'Fire on the track'*

# Chickasaw runner drew on family, tribe for inspiration

**By RICHARD GREEN**
**Contributing Writer**

**By his senior year, everyone expected Carlin to break the state record in the 440 yard dash.**

Photos of Carlin Thompson courtesy of *Ada Evening News*.

**One**

Carlin Thompson waited in place for what seemed like an eternity for his teammate to come running toward him, to stretch out and slap the baton into his hand. As always, he was running the anchor leg of the mile relay, the featured event of the Little Dixie Relays in Idabel. As he shifted his weight repeatedly from one foot to the other, Carlin, looking back up the track, could see that his team was trailing. He began to focus on the handoff. The Ada high school mile relay team had practiced these hand-offs to a fare-the-well, and accidents rarely happened, but there was always a chance.

They were both running when the handoff occurred, Carlin reaching back, his teammate, Karl Sweeny leaning forward, both somewhat awkwardly. With the baton now safely in his grasp, Carlin looked around and saw what he feared, that his Muskogee rival, the great Vernon Givens, had what appeared to be an insurmountable headstart of about 25 yards.

To win for his team, that's the distance Carlin had to make up in their lap around the oval, 440 yards. He had done it before; in fact, his teammates had come to expect it. But this was Givens, who most track observers acknowledged was the fastest high school sprinter in the state in 1971. He had run a 9.5 hundred, an astounding time for a high school runner.

Carlin accelerated and the several hundred spectators, whether they were for or against him, held their breath to see what he had. The difference in the two competitors was stark. Givens, who was black, had a sprinter's prototypical build, was faster, bigger and stronger than Carlin, who was small for a Chickasaw, five feet eight and not quite 140 pounds. His build was usually characterized by newspaper reporters as very thin, small, tiny and "not impressive." Nevertheless, by this his junior year, competitors underestimated him at their peril.

Givens knew and respected Carlin and had eagerly looked forward to this meet because he fully expected to defeat if not blow him away head to head. And here they were sprinting around the track and his relay teammates had given Givens a huge lead. If he was confident before the relay, imagine what he was feeling at that moment.

What about Carlin, what must he have been thinking? When asked today, he says he doesn't remember individual races but usually he prepared for a race by visualizing the fierce warriors from the Chickasaw half of his heritage. His maternal uncles Palmer and Frank Johnson had told him stories of how these warriors had never been defeated in battle. He also thought of his more immediate Chickasaw relatives, his mother, and he thought of his grandmother and great aunt who had both died in 1969. From the time he started running track in grade school, he sometimes strongly felt their presence when he ran.

Although his teammates were his "brothers," and Coach Reirdon was like a father, Carlin never confided any of these thoughts to them. They believed he prevailed through a rare combination of talent and heart.

An Ada junior high school runner, Chuck Roberts, was there that day watching the meet. He had waited all day for this race and now as his hero Carlin started his anchor leg, Chuck's heart was sinking. He says, "I remember that slow old dirt and cinder track and I was thinking there is no way, there is just no way."

**Two**

Carlin Paul Thompson was born on April 23, 1953 in Ada, but spent his formative years being raised primarily by his maternal grandmother, Julia Alexander Johnson, in a wood-frame, two-room house a few miles to the east near Steedman. Carlin and several other family members lived much like their 19th century ancestors, eking out an existence raising their own crops, doing odd jobs or seasonal labor (like picking cotton) and living in a small house with no electricity or running water.

But lots of other people were poor in rural areas around Ada. Carlin's distinction was that he grew up speaking only Chickasaw and living in a rich spiritual culture that included ancient stories, prophets, medicine men and women and witches. When the authorities from Ada came to put him in school at age 7, he knew virtually no English and many of his classmates, not understanding his background, thought he was mentally retarded. Though everyone who knows him knows he is bright, he was never able to overcome this delay in learning English, and this was to have a substantial impact on his school performance.

Those first seven years near Steedman, he says, were the happiest of his life. He was totally devoted to his grandmother, loved playing and running in the woods at near-by Kullihoma, and had no idea that the family was so poor.

His father was a well-to-do white rancher who never married his mother or was part of their lives. His mother, Emily Johnson, later married a much older white man, Joseph Dickerson, and they lived in Ada. When Carlin came to live with them, he experienced a strange dual existence of misery by day at school and happiness among his Chickasaw family.

But as he became functionally proficient in English during grade school, he also went out for track and learned to his surprise that not everyone ran as fast as he. In fact, no one ran that fast. In junior high, he captured the undivided attention of Ada high school's new track coach, Dorsey Jack Reirdon, whose ancestors also included the well-known Chickasaw Love family. At the time, he knew he had some Chickasaw blood but not much more. Yet, perhaps that shared attachment, however small, helped them to bond.

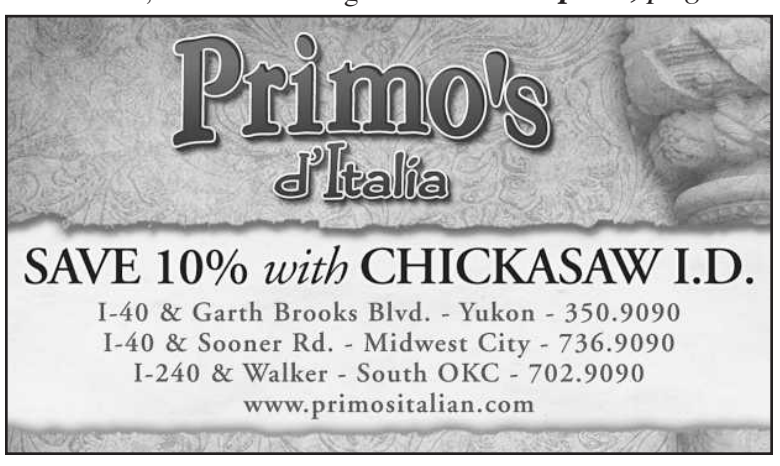
A native of Durant, Reirdon was once a track phenom himself, running a 20.8, 220 yard dash. When he got the job at Ada, in 1968, he was 31 and had been told that the Ada stable was loaded with talent. Ada, it was said, would challenge soon for the school's first state title. Hopes were high. But to get there, Reirdon would put his boys through the physical wringer of conditioning drills, endless sprints and something new for them: weight lifting. If they survived coach's practice regime, he knew their performance level would be high. The meets would be like a day off.

He was correct, and in 1969, his second year at Ada high, his team won the school's first state championship. Carlin played a small but vital role as a member of the victorious mile relay team. But everyone could see that not only would he be a star, but also that he was truly special. He weighed only 130 pounds, but most of that seemed to be heart.

While 1969 was a year of achievement and promise for Carlin, it was also the year that two people died who he loved and admired without reservation. One was his great aunt, Bici Walker, who as one of the last of the great Chickasaw doctors had saved his life as an infant from a serious illness when the physicians at Ada's Valley View Hospital had given up. But Carlin's greatest loss was his beloved grandmother, Julia Johnson, the main link to his Chickasaw past and the source of the perfect happiness he enjoyed until then.

There are many roads Carlin could have taken after those losses, as he continued to struggle in school with his substantial English language deficits. Instead, he dedicated his life in track to Julia Johnson and Bici Walker. On training runs through the woods at Kullihoma, he strongly felt that they were with him, buoying what was already a remarkable level

*See **Thompson,** page 26*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## *Thompson,* continued from page 25

of talent, endurance and grit.

**Three**

One lap around the track remained in the Little Dixie Relays, and Givens and Thompson were running flat out, stride for stride. The excitement in the stands was tempered, however, because Carlin looked to be out of it. That had changed appreciably during the second half of the race, Chuck Roberts recalled, as his hero started pulling closer. Now everyone was into it because Carlin had transformed it into a great race and because the Chickasaw boy's fluid stride and competitive fierceness were on full display.

By the start of the last turn, Carlin had made up all but two or three of the 25 yards. Coming out of the turn, he seemed to crank up the speed another notch and was reeling in his man. Roberts and hundreds of others were cheering their hearts out. In the home stretch, Carlin pulled even and then accelerated as Givens may have faltered. According to Roberts, Carlin won by two or three yards and was mobbed by his teammates and coaches as the cheering continued from the thrilled or stunned track fans. Later, Roberts learned that Carlin's split time in his 440 yard leg of the mile relay had been 46.9, a full second under the state record in the quarter.

Nothing Roberts has ever seen on a track has compared to that race, he told me recently in his office at Ada High School. A Choctaw, he directs Indian education programs at the school. And to put that remark in perspective, Roberts enjoyed a long and distinguished career as an Ada and Oklahoma State University track star, and track coach at Ada High and elsewhere.

When I asked Carlin about the race, he said he thought he remembered it, but added no details, except to say in his characteristic modest way that Vernon Givens was a great runner. Teammate Kurt Sweeny, now an Ada attorney, also couldn't recall that specific race because "there were many other similar relays where Carlin came tearing up from way behind to win. Or if the race was close [when he got the handoff], he would blow them away and win by 30 yards. He would never let up."

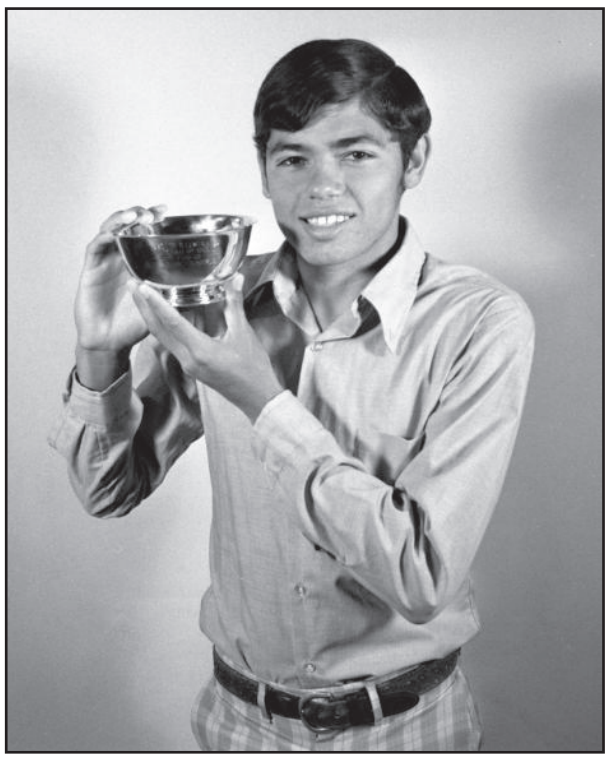
Coach Reirdon, who at 70 is still coaching track at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, told me about other similar races, when Carlin would get the baton 20 or even 30 yards behind the leader and then run him down. During one account at a Shawnee meet, Reirdon, who was recounting the spectacular nature of Carlin's leg in his mind's eye, momentarily choked up. Then, he said, "You talk about your unconquerable Chickasaws. Carlin fit that mold."

Between his freshman and sophomore years, Carlin improved dramatically, picking up two full seconds in the 440. As the anchor of both the 440 yard and mile relays, he began assuring victories in those events while winning individual races, the 220 and 440. One weekend during his sophomore year, he won every preliminary and final in the state's two most prestigious meets in Norman, the first day, and Stillwater the next. Nobody had ever done anything like it before. On Monday, Coach Reirdon had his team running a series of 220s and he told them their times had to be around 32 seconds. When Carlin came in at 36, Reirdon told him his time was "no good." Carlin told his coach he would quit if he didn't like it. "Well, sir, I said to Carlin, 'Get your tail up the hill, you're through.'"

Realizing what he had done to his team and their chance to repeat as state champions, Reirdon called a mutual acquaintance, Bob Stick, and said, "Bob, you've got to help me. I've just run off my bread and butter." Stick talked to Carlin, who said he would apologize. Likewise, Reirdon apologized to his star and instituted the "Carlin Rule," whereby when dust-ups occur, no action would be final for 24 hours.

By the end of his second year, 1970, Carlin's remarkable achievements were capsulized in the "Faces in the Crowd" section of *Sports Illustrated*. Next to the 16-year-old Carlin's picture was a copy block saying he had led his team to its "second consecutive state track title by winning the 440 in 49.3, the 220 in 22.5 and anchoring a 48.2 leg on the winning mile relay team, personally collecting 15 of Ada's 43 points."

**Carlin poses for a newspaper photographer with the astounding 297 track awards he won at Ada High School from 1969-72. Even more astounding in the memories of those who saw him perform was his unmatched burning determination to win.**



**Sports Illustrated presented Carlin with this cup, emblematic of his photo appearing in the magazine's popular "Faces in the Crowd" department in 1970. Another photo of him appeared in the same department two years later.**

**Four**

His picture appeared again in the national magazine two years later, in 1972. This time, he was identified as leading the Ada track team to its fourth straight championship. He won the 220 in 22.2, the 440 in 48 and anchored the victorious 440 and mile relays. In fact, Chuck Roberts said Carlin "had not lost a race during his junior and senior years." How many would that be, I asked. "Say eight races a week for a 12 week track season, he replied. "Track is a very taxing sport and unlike football or basketball where you can play through some injuries, in track you have to be in perfect shape to compete at a top level."

Teammate Kurt Sweeny elaborated: "Carlin was the preeminent high school runner in this state. He could run everything from the 100 to the two miles of cross country competition, and win them all! How do you do that? I do not know. He was just astounding! He didn't have material things, a car or nice clothes, but he did have an all-state jacket and he had a look about him. He grew his hair long, parted it in the middle and sometimes wore a headband. He looked like a warrior and he was one. We not only respected him, we were in awe of him. He was the kind of runner you rarely if ever see."

The most graphic example of that sentiment was a newspaper picture of Carlin in his track uniform kneeling on the track with the hardware he had won during his four years at Ada high. Arrayed around him were 297 medals, bowls, cups and trophies. The caption says it surely is the biggest collection in the history of Oklahoma high school track. Not pictured were Ada's four state championship trophies, but it was said that "his teammates probably wouldn't argue if he kept those, too."

Carlin was Ada High School's first annual "Athlete of the Year." "It was a nice honor and I was glad to have earned it," he told me. But in his typical full disclosure style, he added that by his senior year, "I was already headed in the wrong direction." Despite the fact that Carlin was "a supremely gifted runner," according to Coach Reirdon, with a near unblemished record and was idolized by his teammates and by other students during track season, Carlin was aware that he was different from them in less desirable ways.

He and his family were very poor. He had no car and little money for dates. He was an identifiable Indian when some kids with Indian blood were not raising their hands to say so, and his tribal government had virtually no presence in Ada. His language skills were good enough for his teammates, in whose presence he felt secure, but inadequate for academics and in many social settings. He was keenly aware that in those settings, he was often perceived as a "dumb Indian," which he says was the common vernacular of the time. "By my senior year, everybody was after me to break the state record in the 440. Kids who would never have noticed me otherwise were telling me I had to break the record."

Carlin reacted to all this per-

*See* ***Thompson,*** *page 27*

## *Thompson,* continued from page 26

ceived phoniness by deliberately holding back in the 440. "I know that was wrong. I should have broken the record for myself and my teammates." He also was increasingly acting out by smoking cigarettes and drinking beer, mainly with other Indian kids. When he achieved his best official time at a meet in Del City, he had been out drinking beer all night. "That morning I was still intoxicated. My head was spinning. Then, I learned that all the best 440 competitors in the state were in the race. When it was time to run, I still felt sick but I ran to make up for my bad behavior and I ran to win. He did, and his time of 47.9 tied the state record.

Whether he knew it or not, Carlin was at a fork in the road. He could either dedicate himself to achieving his best and perhaps a shot at the U.S. Olympic team or he could quit. In 1972, he told the *Ada Evening News* that he was considering laying out a year. "I've been running, it seems like, all my life. I'm tired."

In retrospect, he says he should have or followed Coach Reirdon's advice to enroll at Oklahoma State where track coach Ralph Tate in 1971 had called Carlin, "The greatest competitor I've ever seen for a high school junior. He's a joy to watch." Instead, he followed two of his friends to Eastern Junior College in Wilburton, where he took a middle path. He ran track and made bad choices. Although he won races, his times were actually worse than in high school. He hoped his times would improve during his second year at Southeastern in Durant the following year, but the fire was out.

*****

**Postscript**:

Carlin works for the Chickasaw Nation as a ranger, helping to manage the wildlife of the tribe's Kullihoma reservation and other properties. He is married to Juanita Thompson and they have four children.

Today, he recalls mostly the sweet memories of those glory years, when Ada won four consecutive state track championships. He doesn't impose his memories on anyone. Mostly they stay dormant in his mind and as the years pass, he probably recalls fewer of them in detail. But periodically, the aging boys get back together for track reunions in Ada. It's as if they don't want to let go of that special, magical time in their lives. But it's more than that. Now that Carlin is a Chickasaw elder, he knows more emphatically what he knew then but didn't discuss: despite the differences between him and his teammates, they all shared a bond of brotherhood and that bond endures.

One other note: Since 1972, Ada has won only one state track championship.


**the Chickasaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Department**

Do you have a documented disability that prevents you from maintaining successful employment?

Would you like to enter a career that uses your abilities?

Are you a member of a federally recognized tribe?

*A program designed to assist people with disabilities to enter or re-enter the work force!!*

If you answered yes to all of these questions and live in the Chickasaw Nation, we would like to assist you in entering a suitable career.

Please contact our office to schedule an appointment!

PHONE:
1-580-421-7711

EMAIL:
vocrehab@chickasaw.net

*Check out our website: www.chickasaw.net/vocrehab*



## Full-time positions open at Chickasaw Nation Health System

The Chickasaw Nation Health System has full-time, immediate openings within the tribal boundaries for qualified medical personnel in the following specialties:

- 2 Physical Therapists, Ada
- 1 Dentist, Ada
- 1 Dentist, Tishomingo Clinic
- 1 Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner, Purcell Clinic
- 1 Physician Assistant, Ardmore Clinic

For details on any of the professional positions listed above, please contact:

Ronnie Shaw, Professional Recruiter
Chickasaw Nation Health System
(580) 272-7272
ronnie.shaw@chickasaw.net

Beth Campbell, Staff Recruiter
Chickasaw Nation Health System
(580) 272-7320
beth.campbell@chickasaw.net



## Dream of owning your own home? Need to Refinance? Want to make Home Improvements?

**CHUKA CHUKMASI** is a secondary market home loan for Chickasaw Citizens and Chickasaw Nation Employees. The Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development (CNDHTD) can help you with the financing as well as the down payment and closing costs. Through the Chuka Chukmasi home loan program, we offer Conventional, HUD 184, FHA and VA loans anywhere in the continental United States.

**REFINANCING:** Did you know CNDHTD can loan up to 90% of the appraised value on your home? Closing costs may be rolled into the loan, if the appraisal is high enough. Appraisal fee must be paid up front.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION LOANS:** Are you interested in building? If you have been approved for your 30 year permanent financing through Chuka Chukmasi, CNDHTD can provide an interim construction loan for you to build your home. Interim construction is available only in the State of Oklahoma. The interest rate is 5% and the term 6-9 months. During the construction phase, you will be required to make monthly interest payments on drawn borrowed funds. You will pay minimal closing costs on the construction loan at closing. Please call for further information.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS:** Do you want to make needed improvements? CNDHTD may be the answer. Maximum loan amount is $30,000.00. The interest rate is fixed at 5% and maximum term is 10 years. You must be able to qualify for the loan, must have fee simple title and cannot already have a 2nd mortgage on the home. Home must be your primary residence. You must pay closing costs at closing. This loan is available only in the State of Oklahoma. Work must be completed by a contractor. Call for additional details.

**GRANT FUNDS:** Do you need help with down payment and closing costs? Chickasaw citizens may receive up to $3,00.00 to assist with down payment and/or closing costs when purchasing a home. You must be pre-approved thru the **Chuka Chukmasi** home loan program at CNDHTD for your financing. Refinances are not eligible to receive these funds. This is a one time grant. Call for more information.

**EMPLOYER ASSISTED HOUSIING:** Employees of the Chickasaw Nation are eligible to apply for the **Chuka Chukmasi** home loan program thru CNDHTD. You must be pre-approved for your permanent financing through the Chuka Chukmasi home loan program. Employees may receive down payment and/or closing cost assistance in the form of a second mortgage loan.

**COUNSELING:** Did you know that you can receive assistance with credit counseling, credit report clean-up, budgeting, loss mitigation and early delinquency intervention? Do you want to purchase a home but you know there are credit issues that might preclude you from purchasing right now? Did you know that we have a full time counselor who can work directly with you, one-on-one, to help you become mortgage ready? Maybe your credit is ok, but you just can't seem to save enough money to get started with the process and need help with goal setting and personal budgeting. Please call **Kyra Childers at (580) 421-8817** and let her help you now.

**THE CHICKASAW NATION DIVISION OF HOUSING & TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT**
**HOUSING COUNSELING & LOAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Kay Perry**
Director, GML, CHEC
(580) 421-8856

**Summer Stick**
Section Head, CHEC
(580) 421-8862

**Dena Musgraves**
Loan Counselor
(580) 421-8867

**Shannon Hill**
Loan Counselor
(580) 421-8845

**PO Box 788**
**111 Rosedale**
**Ada, OK 74820**

**Kyra Childers**
Loan Services Counselor
(580) 421-8817

# Wellness Center friendship inspires trio to get healthy together

Charles Blankenship, Ray Ingram and Guy Milner have embarked on an exercise regiment and have also discovered much more through visiting the Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center in Ada. The three men act as though they've known each other for decades, however, they have only known each other for about two and one-half years. All three met at the wellness center and have been exercising together ever since.

Each man has faced individual health challenges, and credits the wellness center with helping him improve his overall health.

Ingram has degenerative arthritis, and says the wellness center has helped him to regain mobility and feel better.

"The last week of May I could hardly stand," said Ingram.

He was told about a specialized aquatics class offered through the wellness center that is specifically designed for clients dealing with arthritis. Ingram completed the 25-week arthritis aquatics class, and is now a regular in water aerobics classes four to five days each week. He noticed a significant difference in his mobility after two to three weeks of classes and describes the process as a "miracle cure." In addition to water aerobics, Ingram also walks eight and one-half miles per week with Milner and Blankenship.

Milner and Blankenship are both diabetics and say the increased exercise has helped them achieve better health and control their diabetes. Milner and Blankenship walk at the wellness center at least four days per week. Both men competed in the Big Apple Walk challenge conducted by the wellness center and finished the 1,301-mile trek that began with 20 participants and ended with only three. Along the way, Ingram joined their group, and their camaraderie developed.

Milner urges others to visit the wellness center not only for their health, but for the social aspect of it.

"It's the best place in the world to get healthy and make new friends," he said.

Blankenship echoed his response, "It makes you feel better. The facilities and staff are wonderful."

The three men are all from Ada. Ingram retired two and one-half years ago after owning a private business for many years. Milner retired from the Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing eight years ago and Blankenship, who is Chickasaw, retired after working at the Holcim cement plant for 38 years.

Melinda Ward, Ada Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center manager, said that she was very proud of the trio for what they have accomplished.

"They've gained a really close friendship, they're here every day and they encourage each other to exercise," she said.

By providing access to equipment and services offered at the three wellness centers in Ada, Ardmore and Tishomingo, the Chickasaw Nation is hoping to help build a healthier community and reduce the health disparities faced by many Native Americans today.

Membership to the facility is free for tribal citizens and employees and is also open to community members at a small fee.

The wellness centers provide education, mentoring, monitoring, incentives and access to activities to promote exercise, nutrition and overall improved health, including aerobics, weight training and many other activities.

For more information, please call or visit one of the wellness centers listed below.

**Ada**
229 W. Seabrook Road
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 310-9661

**Ardmore**
911 Locust Street, N.W.
Ardmore, OK 73401
Phone (580) 222-2828

**Tishomingo**
821 E. 6th
Tishomingo, OK 73460
Phone (580) 387-2711

**Hours of operation for all facilities:**
Monday – Thursday
5:30am – 8:00pm
Friday
5:30am – 7:00pm
Saturday
8:00am – Noon

*Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.*

**Ray Ingram, Guy Milner and Charles Blankenship exercise together daily at the Ada Wellness Center.**

## The Chickasaw Nation Get Fresh! Program Announces Classes

Ada Nutrition Services, 518 E. Arlington
January 6: 10 a.m. and noon
January 8: 10 a.m. and noon
January 13: 10 a.m. and noon
January 15: 10 a.m. and noon
February 3: 10 a.m. and noon
February 5: 10 a.m. and noon
February 10: 10 a.m. and noon
February 12: 10 a.m. and noon
For more information, call (580) 272-5506.

Ada Family Life/Wellness Center, 229 W. Seabrook
January 7: 10 a.m. and noon
January 14: 10 a.m. and noon
January 15: 6 p.m.
February 4: 10 a.m. and noon
February 11: 10 a.m. and noon
February 12: 6 p.m.
For more information, call (580) 272-5506.

Ardmore Nutrition Services, 2350 Chickasaw Blvd.
January 6: 10 a.m. and noon
January 7: 10 a.m. and noon
January 13: 10 a.m. and noon
January 14: 10 a.m. and noon
February 3: 10 a.m. and noon
February 4: 10 a.m. and noon
February 10: 10 a.m. and noon
February 11: 10 a.m. and noon
For more information, call (580) 226-8289.

Purcell Nutrition Services, 1530 Hardcastle Blvd.
January 6: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
January 9: 10 a.m. and noon
January 13: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
January 16: 10 a.m. and noon
February 3: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
February 6: 10 a.m. and noon
February 10: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
February 13: 10 a.m. and noon
For more information, call (405) 527-6967.

These exciting cooking shows are free and open to the public and demonstrate healthy cooking for the entire family! Leave with recipes, nutrition education and new ideas to cook healthier every day!

CHICKASAW HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER
chic

Find answers to your health questions easily, quickly and privately at CHIC - located in the lobby of the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility.

Free online access to high-quality medical and health information from the National Library of Medicine.

Trained staff to help you search for answers to your health questions.

Privacy screens, high-speed Internet connection and quality printers to make your research experience productive and comfortable.

For more information call
(580) 436-3980 ext. 80919

CERTIFIED FEDERAL SURVEYOR

**Michael T. Reynolds, PLS, CFedS**
Professional Land Surveyor
Certified Federal Surveyor

621 North Elks Road
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 371-9410
tobyholly@sbcglobal.net

*Chickasaw Citizen*

# Chickasaw seniors enjoy annual Elders Christmas Luncheon

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Aging hosted the annual Elders Christmas Luncheon Friday, Dec. 19 at the Agriplex in Ada, Okla.

Refreshments were served as nearly 300 elders arrived from Oklahoma Senior Centers and played Christmas-themed games.

*Sipokni Hataloowa Chi* (Elder Singers) sang Choctaw Christmas carols and the managers of the Chickasaw Nation Senior Centers performed "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," narrated by Twila Ferris, Senior Nutrition Services program manager.

Senior Services staff entertained the crowd with a humorous skit to the classic Christmas song "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Joe Howard, of the Sulphur Senior Center, sang "White Christmas." Tribal legislator Mary Jo Green delivered the invocation. The event was completed with a traditional Christmas dinner, served by the staff of several senior sites.

*Contributed by Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.*

Marcy Gray

**Gov. Bill Anoatubby and Bertha Allen.**

Marcy Gray

**Sim Greenwood**

Marcy Gray

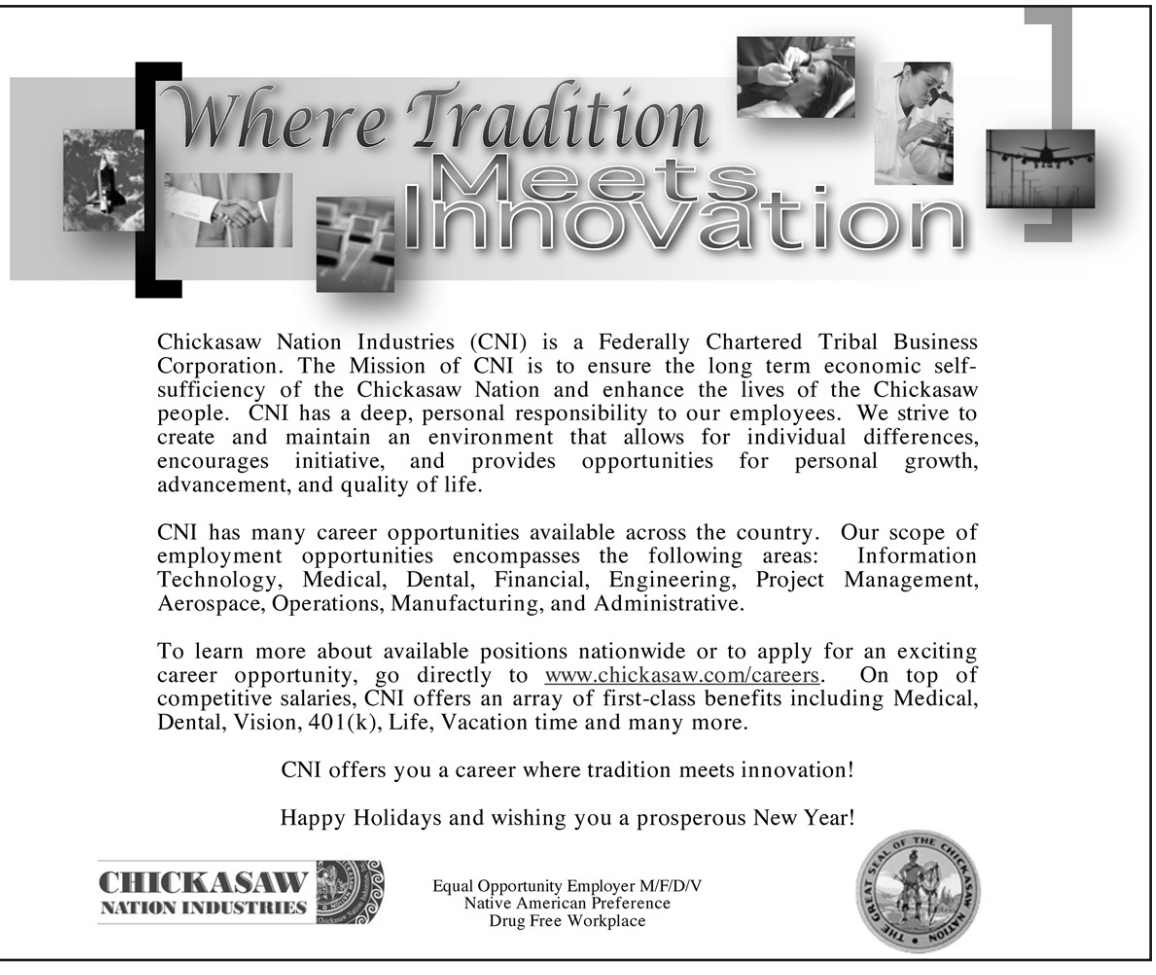
**Don and Beverly Moody**

Marcy Gray

**Tishomingo District Tribal Legislator Scott Colbert and Mary Ahtone.**

Marcy Gray

**Richard and Margaret Jones**


Chickasaw Nation Industries (CNI) is a Federally Chartered Tribal Business Corporation. The Mission of CNI is to ensure the long term economic self-sufficiency of the Chickasaw Nation and enhance the lives of the Chickasaw people. CNI has a deep, personal responsibility to our employees. We strive to create and maintain an environment that allows for individual differences, encourages initiative, and provides opportunities for personal growth, advancement, and quality of life.

CNI has many career opportunities available across the country. Our scope of employment opportunities encompasses the following areas: Information Technology, Medical, Dental, Financial, Engineering, Project Management, Aerospace, Operations, Manufacturing, and Administrative.

To learn more about available positions nationwide or to apply for an exciting career opportunity, go directly to www.chickasaw.com/careers. On top of competitive salaries, CNI offers an array of first-class benefits including Medical, Dental, Vision, 401(k), Life, Vacation time and many more.

CNI offers you a career where tradition meets innovation!

Happy Holidays and wishing you a prosperous New Year!

CHICKASAW NATION INDUSTRIES

Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V
Native American Preference
Drug Free Workplace

## *Minutes,* continued from page 2

approve GR26-008.

**Members voting yes:** Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**11 yes votes**

**The motion to approve GR26-008 carried unanimously.**

**(E) EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Wanda Blackwood Scott

No report.

**(F) HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Mary Jo Green

No report.

**(G) HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Scott Colbert

No report.

AGENDA ITEM #7

NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

Comments were made by Mrs. Alexander and Mr. Mike Watson.

**AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT**

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Goforth Parker, Secretary

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Prepared by: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

## *Resolutions,* continued from page 7

tion supports the participation of the Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Club of Sulphur in the Mentoring Program for At-Risk Tribal Youth awarded by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. The Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Club of Sulphur will provide Power Hour, a comprehensive homework help and tutoring program, to at-risk club members.

**Presented by:**

Human Resources Committee

Dean McManus, Committee Chair

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

**Permanent Resolution Number 26-001**

**Amendments to Title 2, Chapter 4 Section 2-401.9 of the Chickasaw Nation Code**

**(Insurance for Elected Officials Who Leave Office)**

**Explanation:** This resolution amends Title 2, Chapter 4 Section 2-401.9 of the Chickasaw Nation Code to make those Chickasaw citizens who have served in any elected office for at least 12 years under the Chickasaw Constitution of 1983, even when all such years were served prior to the established effective date, eligible for insurance as a retirement benefit in accordance with Title 2, Chapter 4 Section 2-401.9 of the Chickasaw Nation Code. Currently, 3 former Legislators and Justices will be eligible for insurance under these amendments.

**Presented By:** Legislative Committee

Steve Woods, Committee Chair

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

## *CN Baseball Camp,* continued from page 24

practice.

Many campers reported they had a great time at camp.

"I like it, and I am having fun," said eight-year-old Hunter Palesano, from Dickson.

Garrett Wampler, who is also eight, nodded enthusiastically when asked if he was having a good time.

Both boys attended camp for the first time.

"I am so amazed at all the wonderful things the Chickasaw Nation does for the kids," said Garrett's grandmother, Gwen Nichols, of Norman.

Lessons on essential life skills such as dedication, goal setting and commitment were intertwined with lessons on the basic skills of baseball during camp.

Fourth grader Dakota Perkins, Madill, said the camp reinforced all the skills he has been learning since T-ball.

Dakota attended camp for the second year.

Ardmore High School head baseball coach Zac Birth said, "I have been to a lot of camps all over the state and this is the best camp I have ever been a part of. The quality of the instructors and how much the Chickasaw Nation provides the kids, this camp is without a doubt the best."

"The Chickasaw Nation really gives back to the community," said the coach.

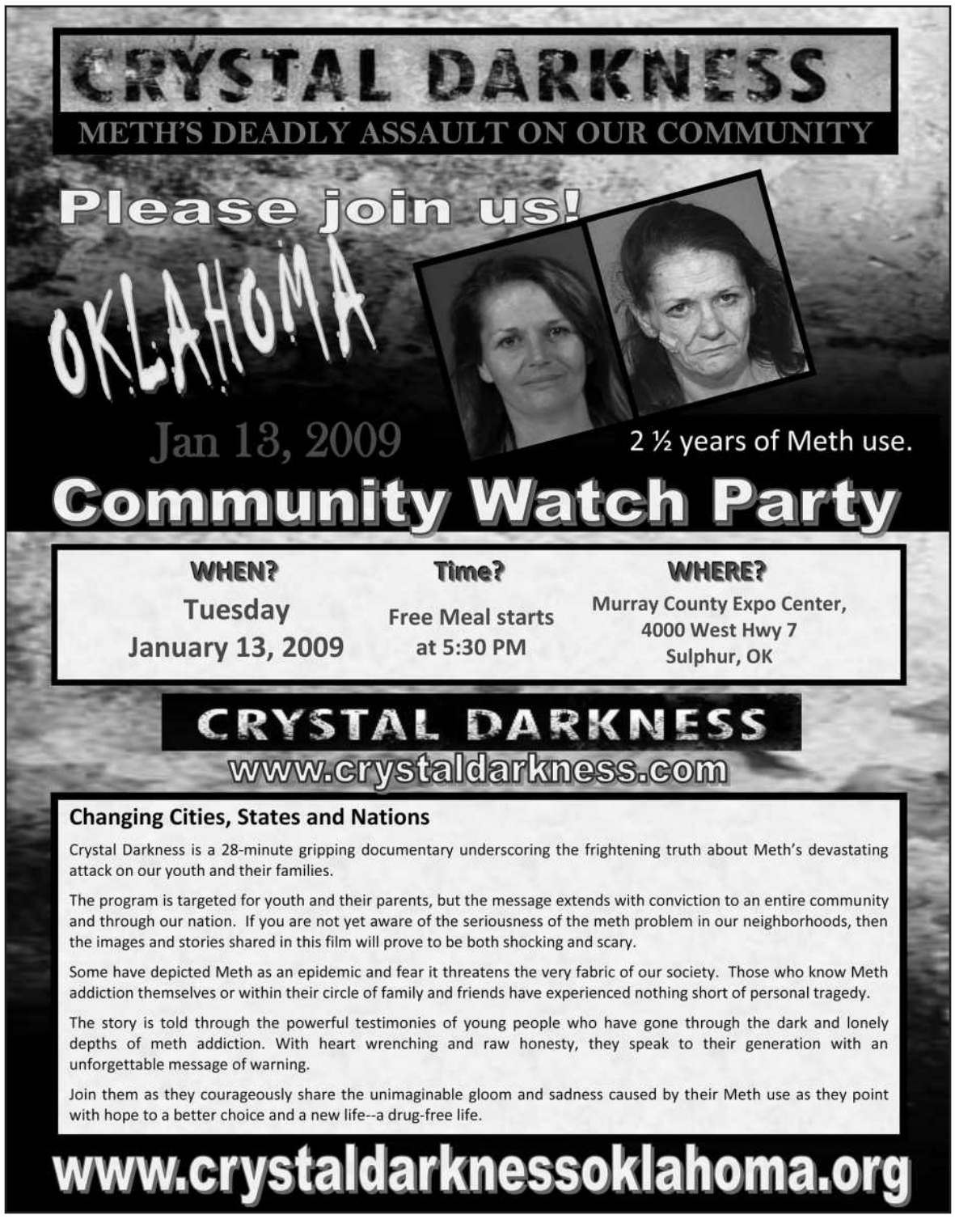
Gov. Bill Anoatubby said the camp reinforced many of the Chickasaw Nation's values such as hard work, commitment and helping others.

"This camp teaches our young men more than baseball," the Governor said. "It stresses teamwork, self discipline and dedication. I am proud of all our players and coaches who are carrying on these values."

Baseball camp is provided at no charge to Chickasaw citizens. Similar camps cost up to $750 per camper.

Each camper also received individual recognition and a new baseball caps and pullovers at the closing awards ceremony.

*Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.*


CRYSTAL DARKNESS
METH'S DEADLY ASSAULT ON OUR COMMUNITY
Please join us!
OKLAHOMA
Jan 13, 2009
2 ½ years of Meth use.
Community Watch Party
WHEN?
Tuesday
January 13, 2009
Time?
Free Meal starts
at 5:30 PM
WHERE?
Murray County Expo Center,
4000 West Hwy 7
Sulphur, OK
CRYSTAL DARKNESS
www.crystaldarkness.com
Changing Cities, States and Nations
Crystal Darkness is a 28-minute gripping documentary underscoring the frightening truth about Meth's devastating attack on our youth and their families.
The program is targeted for youth and their parents, but the message extends with conviction to an entire community and through our nation. If you are not yet aware of the seriousness of the meth problem in our neighborhoods, then the images and stories shared in this film will prove to be both shocking and scary.
Some have depicted Meth as an epidemic and fear it threatens the very fabric of our society. Those who know Meth addiction themselves or within their circle of family and friends have experienced nothing short of personal tragedy.
The story is told through the powerful testimonies of young people who have gone through the dark and lonely depths of meth addiction. With heart wrenching and raw honesty, they speak to their generation with an unforgettable message of warning.
Join them as they courageously share the unimaginable gloom and sadness caused by their Meth use as they point with hope to a better choice and a new life--a drug-free life.
www.crystaldarknessoklahoma.org


# New Location!

OKLAHOMA OPTICAL

Oklahoma Optical is now located at 1005 North Country Club Road in Ada, Oklahoma.

A new showroom and large display area makes finding the right style more convenient for customers!

Oklahoma Optical is open to everyone.

For more information, please contact Dixie Ernst-Phillips at (580) 332-2796.

## John Byron Byrd

John Byron Byrd, M.D., died Oct. 27, 2008 in an automobile accident south of Wood Lake, Neb. He spent the day in a place he loved best, the sandhills of Nebraska, doing what he loved, hunting prairie chicken and grouse, riding horses and running his dogs.

Memorial services were Nov. 1, 2008 at St. Boniface Church, Elgin, Neb., and Nov. 8, 2008 at Lutheran Church, Northwood.

He was born in Amarillo, Texas Sept. 13, 1944 to Roy and Katy (Black) Byrd. At a young age he was out hunting and fishing with is older brother, Roy Neal. He was the great-grandson of Benjamin Franklin Byrd, who served as treasury secretary of the nation in several administrations.

He graduated high school in Valentine, Neb., and attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. From there he graduated from medical school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha in 1969.

He loved medicine and loved caring for his patients. He actively taught the art of medicine to medical students and residents. He was board certified in Family Medicine and Geriatrics and recently retired at the age of 63 after 39 years as a family physician. He practiced primarily in the Nebraska communities of Kimball, Valentine, Neligh, Sargent and Northwood.

He prided himself on staying current on medicine, attending lots of meetings, reading the latest medical literature and textbooks.

Dr. Byrd had many hobbies including a lifelong love of hunting and fishing. More recently he became very involved in cutting horses, initially riding them and then starting his own business, John Byrd Quarterhorses, breeding, training, buying and selling and still working on mastering the art of riding a cutting horse.

He was an avid reader, a budding photographer and dabbled in gourmet cooking. He was a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, of Northwood; sons, Jay, of Northwood, Matt and wife, Cherie, of Ogallala, Neb., and Chad and wife, Carrie, of Wenatchee, Wash.; daughters, Jodi Byrd and Elizabeth Tsukahara, of Champaign, Ill.; his parents, Roy and Katy, of Toyahvale, Texas; brothers, Roy, of Park City, Utah, Jeff, of Killeen, Texas, and George; a sister, Becky, of Abilene, Texas; grandchildren, Samantha Byrd, of Ogallala, James, Luke, Abby, Megan and Trey Byrd, of Wenatchee, Jacob and Andrew Henery, of Neligh, Neb.

The family has requested memorial be made to the Wood Lake Fire Department Wood Lake, NE 69221.

## Claude E. Beaver, Sr.

Services for Claude E. Beaver, Sr., 63, of Dougherty, Okla., were Nov. 6, 2008 at First Baptist Church of Dougherty, with Pastor Willard McCartney, Jr., officiating. Interment was in Drake Cemetery.

Mr. Beaver died Nov. 4, 2008 at Dougherty. He was born Sept. 13, 1945 to Ather Troy and Estelle Ruth (Williams) Beaver at Porterville, Calif.

He moved to Drake when he was six years old and graduated from Sulphur (OK) High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1962 and gained the rank of staff sergeant. He served with the 101st Airborne and the 82nd Airborne Divisions. He was stationed in Japan for two years and served a tour of duty as a medic in Vietnam. After his honorable discharge, he worked in home construction and later trucking where he retired.

He married Margaret Ann Brooks Sept. 10, 1962. They moved to Dougherty in 1985.

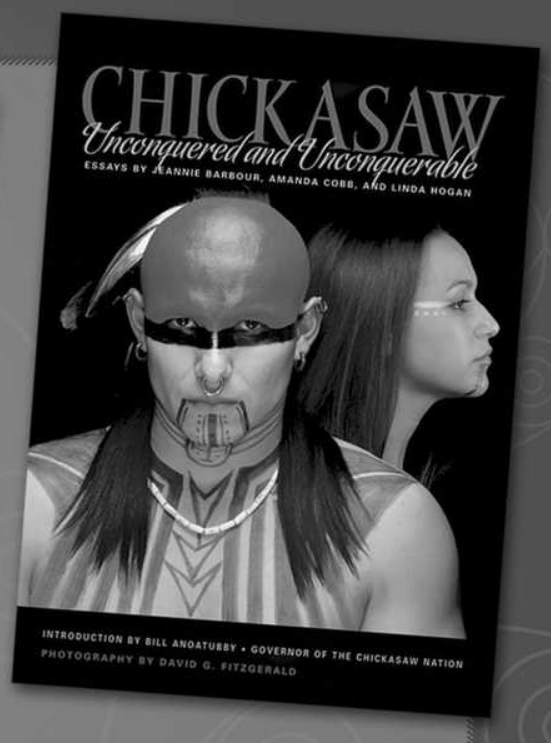
He enjoyed fishing, hunting and barbequing for family gatherings.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, Stephen David Beaver.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, Dougherty; four sons, James David Beaver and wife, Marsha, Dougherty, Anthony Keith Beaver, Dougherty, Claude Beaver, Jr., and wife, JoLynn, of Sulphur, Charles Ray Beaver and wife, Elta, of Dougherty; a sister, Ruth Marie McCracken and husband, Will, of Sulphur; two brothers, Troy James Beaver, Dougherty, and Allen Dwight Beaver, of Longview, Texas; seven grandchildren, James Beaver and wife, Kim, of Pennellville, N.Y., Brandon Beaver, of St. Clair, Mich., Jessica Beaver, of Dougherty, Cameron Beaver, of Davis, Okla., Marissa, Brianna and McKayla Beaver, all of Sulphur; and two great-grandchildren, Lily Ann Jackson and Gabriel Beaver, both of Pennellville.

Pallbearers were Justin Lawson, Fred Norton, Jr., Brad Thomas, Danny Stephens, David Billy, Monte Ken Billy and Douglas Akers. Honorary bearers were Robert Mongeau, Marion Lowery, Steve Billy and Neil Gibson.


The Chickasaw Press


CHICKASAW
Unconquered and Unconquerable
ESSAYS BY JEANNIE BARBOUR, AMANDA COBB, AND LINDA HOGAN
INTRODUCTION BY BILL ANOATUBBY • GOVERNOR OF THE CHICKASAW NATION
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID G. FITZGERALD

Please inquire about new titles for the Fall of 2008:

- *Picked Apart the Bones* by Rebecca Hatcher Travis
- *They Know Who They Are* by Mike & Martha Larsen
- *Edmund Pickens (Okchantubby) First Elected Chickasaw Chief, His Life and Times* by Juanita Keel Tate

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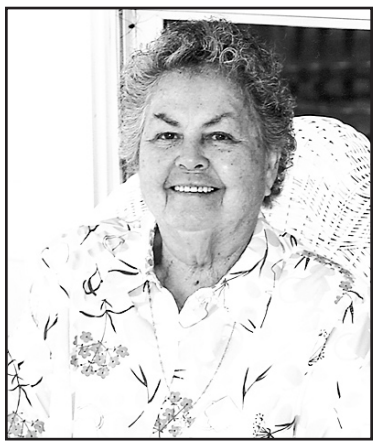
## Charlene Hulsey



Services for Charlene Hulsey, 74, Fittstown, Okla., were Nov.7, 2008 at Faith Assembly of God Church in Ada, Okla., with Revs. Don Venable, Johnny Rolen and Greg Pollard officiating. Burial followed in Rosedale Cemetery.

Mrs. Hulsey died November 4, 2008 at a local hospital. She was born July 9, 1934 at Stonewall, Okla., to Jink Ples and Emma Mae Owens Jones.

She lived in this area all her life and attended Ada schools, Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla., and graduated from Lela's Beauty College.

She married Homer T. Hulsey on January 18, 1951 in Konawa, Okla. He died January 21, 1987.

Mrs. Hulsey worked as a teacher's assistant for many years at Connerville (OK) grade school. She was a cook for McLish (OK) School and the Chickasaw Nation Head Start Program for many years. She was a foster grandparent at McLish School at the time of her death. Mrs. Hulsey was a member of the Faith Assembly of God Church.

She is survived by daughters, Carol Harrison and husband William, Wewoka, Okla., and Rhonda Hulsey and husband Sammy Billy, Fittstown; a son, Ken Hulsey, of the home; six grandchildren, Wendy Harrison and Kelly Harrison, of Wewoka, Okla., and Christine Brown, of the home, Brandon Hulsey, Amarillo, Texas, Thad Hulsey, Rapid City, S.D., and Devin Hulsey, Sapulpa, Okla.; nine great grandchildren; a sister, Pauline Moppin, Tracy, Calif.; a step-sister, Ruthlene Kilcrease, Ada; a half-brother, James Jones, Lindale, Texas; and several nieces and nephews.

Bearers were Thad Hulsey, Brandon Hulsey, Scotty Hulsey, Larry Colbert, Daryl Sawyer, and Jonathan Futischa. Honorary bearers will be Kevin Worcester, Martin Stick, Jerry Cook, Jackie Byrd, Dewayne James, Lawrence Archer, Jay Caroline Jordan, and Randall Devin Jordan; and great-granddaughter, Karsyn D'nea.

The family suggests memorial donations to the American Diabetes Association, 8008 Slide Rd., Lubbock, TX 79424.

## R.C. Jordan

R.C. Jordan, 68, of Meadow, Texas died Dec. 3, 2008 in Lubbock. Celebration of life services were December 8 at Resthaven's Abbey Chapel, Lubbock, with Pastor Ray Perryman officiating. Interment followed in Resthaven Memorial Park.

Robert Clarence Jordan was born September 17, 1940 at Lawton, Okla., to Albert Denzil Jordan and Willie Lou (Smith) Jordan.

He graduated from Meadow High School and attended West Texas State University. He was a farmer, a rancher, an oilfield fishing tool supervisor and salesman, had been a supervisor with the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Department, and most recently had been a hotshotter for Ulterra Drilling Technologies.

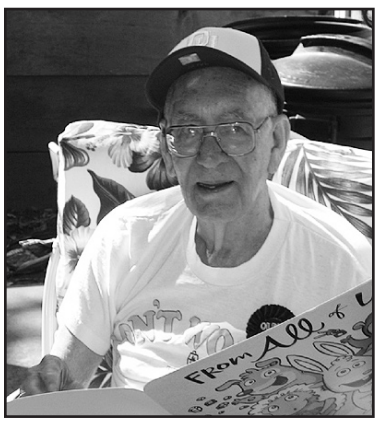
His number one hobby was working, then he liked to play and play hard. He loved to hunt, fish, ride horses and rope.

Mr. Jordan was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Willie Lou Jordan; and a brother, Albert Lee Jordan.

He is survived by his father, Albert Denzil Jordan, of Ravia, Okla.; brother, Don Jordan and wife, Linda, of Brownfield, Texas; first love, Carlene Jordan, of Alto, N.M.; sons, Gary Don Jordan and wife, Sandra, of Ropesville, Texas, Danny Ross Jordan, and wife, Angela, of Hobbs, N.M., and Shawn Jordan, of Lubbock; grandchildren, Justin Don Jordan, Taylor Dee Jordan, Cody Dan Jordan, Brandon Clay Jordan, Harlee

## James Edmund Pickens



James Edmund Pickens, 83, of Sonora, Calif., died Nov. 2, 2008. He was born June 28, 1925 to Edmund and Winnie Pickens at Sulphur, Okla.

He was raised in Sulphur and was a registered citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. As an adult he moved to Northern California where he worked in the tool and die field for over 35 years. He resided with his family in Milpitas, Calif., for over 25 years. Mr. Pickens and his wife, Alice retired to Sonora 20 years ago.

He enjoyed fishing, camping, Keno, attended numerous Dixieland Jazz festivals and always watched the Oklahoma Sooners football team on television.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Pickens in 1997.

He is survived by his children, Stephanie Pickens, of Milpitas, Pam Gerner and her husband, Steve, of Escalon, Calif., and Anthony Pickens and his wife, Trish, of Escalon; grandchildren, Jaime and Jennifer Billlings, of Sonora, and Johnny Pickens, of Escalon; great-grandchildren, Derek Lemas, of Oakdale, Calif., Natalia Salcedo, of Sonora, and Garrett Frances, of Sonora; cousin, James Morgan, of Palm Springs; and numerous longtime friends.

He was the grandson of Hiram and Bendie Lewis Pickens Owens. He was a descendant of Cyrus Harris.

The family can be contacted at stephsmeow@yahoo.com.

## Curtis Perry Norvell

Curtis Perry Norvell, 86, died Sept. 17, 2008 at Purcell, Okla. Graveside services were at Hillside Cemetery in Purcell, with Rev. John Novell, of Ada, Okla., officiating. At the end of the service a blessing and Indian prayer were given by Lee Frazier in the native Chickasaw language.

The second of six children Mr. Norvell was born Sept. 9, 1922 to Ira Edgar Norvell and Mildred Catherine (Perry) Norvell, an original enrollee of the Chickasaw Nation. He was born on the original family allotment of land in Indian Territory two miles west of Purcell, and was living in the same house at the time of his death.

He married Norma Dalton of Edmond, Okla., February of 1947 and they moved to Wichita, Kan., in 1955 with their only child, Kathryn (Katie).

After school he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served his country before being honorably discharged. After his discharge he began a 30-year career with Halliburton Services as a division mechanic. While working for Halliburton he lived in several states and in Venezuela for a short time. After moving to Wichita in 1955 he continued with Halliburton in the Wichita Division until his retirement in January 1974. After retirement he moved to Purcell, Okla.

Mr. Norvell was very proud of his Chickasaw heritage and lived for many years as a Chickasaw Nation elder.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Louise Wyatt Jones, and Dorothy Vela; and a brother, Glynn Taylor Norvell.

He is survived by a daughter, Kathryn (Katie) Norvell, of Sarasota, Fla.; a sister, Jimmie Duffy and husband, Robert, of Norman, Okla.; and a brother, John Norvell and wife, Phyllis, of Purcell.

## John Paul Joyce

John Paul Joyce, 62, of Ada, Okla., died December 9, 2008 at an Ada hospital.

Mr. Joyce was born November 11, 1946 to the late Paul John Joyce and Viola Ned Joyce at Kansas City, Mo. He was raised in Kansas City and the Oceanside, Calif., area.

He married Debra Jackson. She preceded him in death.

He later lived in Nebraska and California and in 2006 moved to Ardmore, Okla., and in 2008 he moved to Ada. He was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed coin collecting, music, painting and doing puzzles.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; and a daughter, Amy Joyce.

He is survived by his children, Tina Marie Joyce, of California, Heather Miller, of Missouri, Katherine Joyce, and Paul Joyce, both of Nebraska; eight grandchildren; a brother, David Ned, of Nebraska; and sisters, Alice Marie Roth, of Ardmore, and Barbara Whaley, of Ada.

Funeral services were Dec. 13, 2008, at the Watts Memorial Chapel, Madill, Okla., with Jim Yeager officiating. Interment followed in Russett Cemetery, Russett, Okla.

Bearers were David Kowalec and Jim Yeager.

## *Note of Thanks*

To the Chickasaw Nation, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you did for my father, Curtis Perry Norvell. He lived as long as he did and in good health because of all the great health care that was provided by the Carl Albert Indian Hospital.

A special thank you to Nina Crossley at the Purcell Senior Center who without her help, kindness, and attention would have made my journey so much harder. Nina, I can never thank you enough for all your efforts. He was a wonderful dad, his honesty and work ethic made me the person I am today. He will be greatly missed as he was just on loan to me for sixty years. I give him back to the people and land that he loved…the Chickasaws and Oklahoma!

Katie Norvell